

# LOCAL GENDER BIAS and GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEES

Annual Reports 2018–2019

#### ANNUAL REPORTS

#### Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees • 2018-2019

Chairs of Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees	7
Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee Hon. Rachel Kretser, Chair and Patricia Beeler, Vice Chair	11
Fourth Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee Hon. Polly A. Hoye, Chair; Tatiana Coffinger, Esq., Vice Chair; Elena Jaffe Tastenson, Esq., Vice Chair	25
Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas, Chair	47
Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee Hon. Teresa D. Johnson and Mary Aufleger, Chairs	51
Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, Chair	59
Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair	83
Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee Hon. Karen Kerr and Laurette D. Mulry, Esq., Chairs	93
Gender Fairness Committee of the Twelfth Judicial District, Supreme Court Committee Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez and Hon. Josephine Bastone, Chairs	107
Bronx County Civil Court Committee on Equality in the Courts Hon. Elizabeth A. Taylor and Hon. Eddie J. McShan, Chairs	153
Gender Fairness Committee, New York County, Supreme Court, Civil Term Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan and Gregory F. Testa, Chairs	163
Gender Fairness Committee, New York County, Supreme Court, Criminal Term Hon. Erika Edwards and Lisa White-Tingling, Chairs	207
New York County Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee Hon. Heidi C. Cesare and Gloria Keum, Esq., Chairs	221
Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee Hon. Robin Sheares and Hon. Theresa Cicotto, Chairs	229
Kings County Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee Hon. Abena Darkeh, Chair	235
Queens County Supreme Court, Civil and Criminal Terms, Gender Fairness Committee Hon. Marguerite A. Grays and Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch, Chairs	239
Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee Hon. Barbara Irolla Panepinto and Hon. Karen B. Wolff, Chairs	247

Chairs of Local Gender Bias and Gender Fairness Committees

#### CHAIRS OF LOCAL GENDER BIAS AND GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEES

#### **Courts Outside NYC**

#### Third Judicial District **Gender Fairness** Committee

Hon. Rachel L. Kretser, Co-Chair Albany City Court (Ret.) RLK1ATT@yahoo.com

Patricia Beeler, Co-Chair Unified Court System (Ret.) PBeeler1@nycap.rr.com

#### **Fourth Judicial District Gender Fairness** Committee

Hon. Polly A. Hoye, Chair Fulton County Office Building Room 216 223 West Main Street Johnstown, NY 12095 518-736-5691 PHoye@nycourts.gov

Tatiana Coffinger, Vice Chair Warren County Supreme Court 1340 State Route 9 Lake George, NY 12845 518-761-6547 TCoffing@nycourts.gov

#### Elena Jaffe Tastenson, Esq., Vice Chair

376 Broadway, Suite 16 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 518-587-4419 ejt@ejtlaw.com

#### **Fifth Judicial District** Committee

#### Hon. Deborah Karalunas, Chair

Supreme Court Onondaga County Courthouse 401 Montgomery Street, Room 401 Syracuse, NY 13202 315-671-1106 DKaralun@nycourts.gov

#### **Sixth Judicial District** Committee

Hon. Julie A. Campbell, Chair Cortland County Supreme and County Court 46 Greenbush Street, **STE 301** Cortland, NY 13045 607-218-3343 JACampbe@nycourts.gov

#### **Seventh Judicial District Committee**

Hon. Teresa Johnson, Chair Rochester City Court Hall of Justice 99 Exchange Blvd. Rochester, NY 14614 585-428-1904 TJohnson@nycourts.gov

Mary A. Aufleger, Chair Deputy District Executive Seventh Judicial District Hall of Justice 99 Exchange Blvd. Rochester, New York 14614 585-371-3436 MAuflege@nycourts.gov

#### **Eighth Judicial District** Gender & Racial **Fairness Committee**

Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, Chair

Erie County Supreme Court 50 Delaware Avenue Buffalo, NY 14202 716-845-2796 EOgden@nycourts.gov

#### **Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness** in the Courts

#### Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair

Supreme Court 111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard White Plains, NY 10601 914-824-5790 TRuderma@nycourts.gov

#### **Nassau County Judicial** Committee on Women in the Courts

Hon, Julianne Capetola, Chair Nassau County Supreme Court 100 Supreme Court Drive Mineola, NY 11501 JCapetola@nycourts.gov

#### **Suffolk County Women** in the Courts Committee

#### Hon. Karen Kerr

Acting County Court Judge, District Court Judge Supervising Judge of the District Court John P. Cohalan Jr. Courthouse 400 Carleton Avenue, Room 345 Central Islip, New York 11722 631-853-4917 KKerr@nycourts.gov

Laurette D. Mulry

Attorney in Charge Suffolk County Legal Aid Society 400 Carleton Avenue, 4th Floor Tower Central Islip, NY 11722 631-853-7808 LMulry@sclas.org

#### **Courts Within NYC**

#### NYC FAMILY COURT **COMMITTEES**

#### **Bronx County**

Hon. Alma Gomez **Bronx Family Court** 900 Sheridan Ave Bronx, NY 10451

718-618-2260 AGomez@nycourts.gov

#### **New York County** Hon. Emily Olshansky NY County Family Cour 60 Lafayette Street New York, NY 10016 646-386-5118

EOIshans@nycourts.gov

#### **Kings County**

#### Vacant

Kings County Family Court 330 Jay Street Brooklyn, NY 11201

#### **Queens County**

#### Hon. Carol Stokinger, Co-Chair

Queens Family Court 151-20 Jamaica Ave. Jamaica, NY 11432 718-298-0231 CStoking@nycourts.gov

#### Hon. Mildred Negron, Co-Chair

Queens Family Court 151-20 Jamaica Ave. Jamaica, NY 11432 718-298-0185 MTNegron@nycourts.gov

#### Richmond County

#### Hon. Karen A. Wolff

Richmond County Family Court 100 Richmond Terrace Staten Island, NY 10301 718-675-8870 KWolff@nvcourts.gov

#### **BRONX COUNTY COMMITTEES**

#### **Gender Fairness** Committee of the Twelfth Judicial **District, Supreme Court** Committee

Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez, Co-Chair

851 Grand Concourse Bronx, NY 10451 718-618-1432 DMGonzal@nycourts.gov

Hon. Josephine Bastone, Co-Chair

Bronx Supreme Court 851 Grand Concourse Bronx, NY 10451 718-618-1344 JBastone@nvcourts.gov

#### **Bronx County Civil Court Committee**

Hon. Elizabeth Taylor, Co-

Bronx County Civil Court 851 Grand Concourse Bronx, NY 10451 718-618-2548 ETaylor@nycourts.gov

#### Hon. Eddie J. McShan, Co-Chair

Bronx County Civil Court 851 Grand Concourse Bronx. NY 10451 718-618-2540 EMcShan@nycourts.gov

#### NEW YORK COUNTY **COMMITTEES**

#### **Gender Fairness** Committee, New York County, Supreme Court, Civil Term

Hon, Deborah Kaplan Supreme Court 60 Centre Street New York, NY 10007 646-386-5567 DKaplan@nycourts.gov

**Gregory Testa, Esq.** Supreme Court Law Dept. 60 Centre Street New York, NY 10007 646-386-3617 GTesta@nycourts.gov

#### **New York County Civil** Court Committee

Hon. Leticia Ramirez 111 Centre Street New York, NY 10013 646-386-3173 LRamirez@nycourts.gov

#### Gender Bias Committee, **New York County,** Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Hon Frika Edwards Supreme Court 100 Centre Street New York, NY 10013 646-386-4411

Lisa M. White-Tingling Supreme Court 100 Centre Street New York, NY 10013 646-386-4163 LWhite@nycourts.gov

EEdwards@nycourts.gov

#### **New York County Criminal Court** Committee

Hon. Heidi C. Cesare 100 Centre Street New York, NY 10013 646-386-4969 HCesare@nycourts.gov

#### **KINGS COUNTY COMMITTEES**

#### **Kings County** Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Miriam Cyrulnik Kings County Supreme Court Criminal 320 Jay Street Brooklyn, NY 11201 347-296-1536 MCyrulni@nycourts.gov

#### **Kings County Civil Court Committee**

Hon. Robin Sheares Kings County Civil Court 141 Livingston Street Brooklyn, NY 11201 347-404-9077 RSheares@nycourts.gov

#### **Kings County Criminal Court Committee**

Hon. Abena Darkeh **Criminal Court** 120 Schermerhorn Street Brooklyn, NY 11201 347-404-9849 ADarkeh@nycourts.gov

#### QUEENS COUNTY **COMMITTEES**

#### Queens County. Supreme Court, Civil & Criminal Terms Committee

Hon. Marguerite A. Grays, Co-Chair

Supreme Court 88-11 Sutphin Blvd. Jamaica, NY 11435 718-298-1212 MGrays@nycourts.gov

Hon. Marcia Hirsch, Co-Chair

Queens Supreme Court 125-01 Queens Blvd. Kew Gardens, NY 11415 718-298-1435 MHirsch@nycourts.gov

#### **Queens County Criminal Court** Committee

Hon. Gia Morris 125-01 Queens Blvd. Kew Gardens, NY 11415 718-298-0852 GMorris@nycourts.gov

#### **Queens County Civil Court Committee**

Hon. Sally Unger 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard Jamaica, New York 11435 718-262-7373 SUnger@nycourts.gov

#### RICHMOND COUNTY COMMITTEE

Hon. Barbara I. Panepinto, Co-Chair

Supreme Court 18 Richmond Terrace Staten Island, NY 10301 718-876-6424 BPanepin@nycourts.gov

Hon. Karen A. Wolff, Co-Chair

Richmond County Family Court 100 Richmond Terrace Staten Island, NY 10301 718-675-8870 KWolff@nycourts.gov

Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Rachel Kretser, Chair and Patricia Beeler, Vice Chair

#### **Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee**

Hon. Rachel Kretser, Chair and Patricia Beeler, Vice Chair

Members: See attached list

Counties served: Albany, Columbia, Green, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster

#### 2018 Meetings

Dates of Meetings Held in 2018: 1/11/18; 5/17/18; 9/20/18 Conference Call meetings

3/6/18

Average attendance: 15

Do you use Videoconferencing? No

#### 2018 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month

The Committee sponsored a CLE program entitled: "Gender Equality in Alternative Dispute Resolution: If not now, when?" The program was held at Albany Law School on March 21, 2018. Approximately 100 attorneys, judges and law students participated. It was moderated by Hon. Rachel Kretser. Speakers included Hon. Victoria Graffeo, Hon. Karla Moskowitz, Hon. Mae D'Agostino and Mark Sonders, Esq. The program raised awareness about the fact that women are severely under-represented among the ranks of paid mediators and arbitrators statewide, and especially in the Third Judicial District. Panelists revealed how the selection process works and provided insights on how to break in, fit in and practice as a mediator/arbitrator. (See attached flyer.)

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month
The Committee joined with the CDWBA Legal Project in various DV activities.

#### Other Special Events or Activities

The Committee sponsored a CLE program, entitled, "Not So Blind Justice: Implicit Bias in the Legal System," which was held on June 13, 2018 in the 3rd JD Office Training Room. Approximately 85 attorneys, judges and court personnel were in attendance. Presenters included Mark Rogerson, Ph.D.; Mirna Santiago, Esq; Hon. William Carter; Lillian Moy, Director of the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York; Lisa Frisch, Director of the Legal Project; and Melissa Breger, Professor of Law, Albany Law School. Hon. Rachel Kretser moderated. (See attached flyer.) The Committee has also begun interviewing pioneering women attorneys for an oral history similar to the Pioneering Women Judges video produced in 2017. In June we joined with the National Association of Women Judges in the Color of Justice Program at Albany Law School. Committee Member Judge Helena Heath and Judge Kretser served as panelists for a seminar encouraging young women and people of color to consider careers in the judiciary.

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email, Flyers, Podcasts, Twitter, Websites, Co-sponsor Newsletters, Local Press

Who and how many attended? 80-100 attorneys, judges, court personnel and law students

Was there any press before or after? Yes

#### **Future Plans**

Meetings dates for planned or projected for 2019: 1/10/19; 5/16/19

Special Events & Educational Programs

Women's History Month:

On March 25, 2019 the Committee is sponsoring a two-credit CLE program identifying the many men, including prominent judges and lawyers, who advocated and marched in support of women's rights. It will also explore the judicial ethics question: Could a sitting judge today engage in public advocacy for a controversial political/social issue? Or have judges forfeited the right to engage in public debate? Judicial free speech issues will be explored by a panel consisting of Hon. Margaret Walsh, Hon. Richard Dollinger and Professor Brooke Kroeger, and moderated by Hon. Rachel Kretser. We are also rereleasing our Pioneering Women Judges video on March 1 and will be creating podcasts of the pioneering women attorney interviews to be broadcast throughout Women's History Month. See OCA website for additional information.

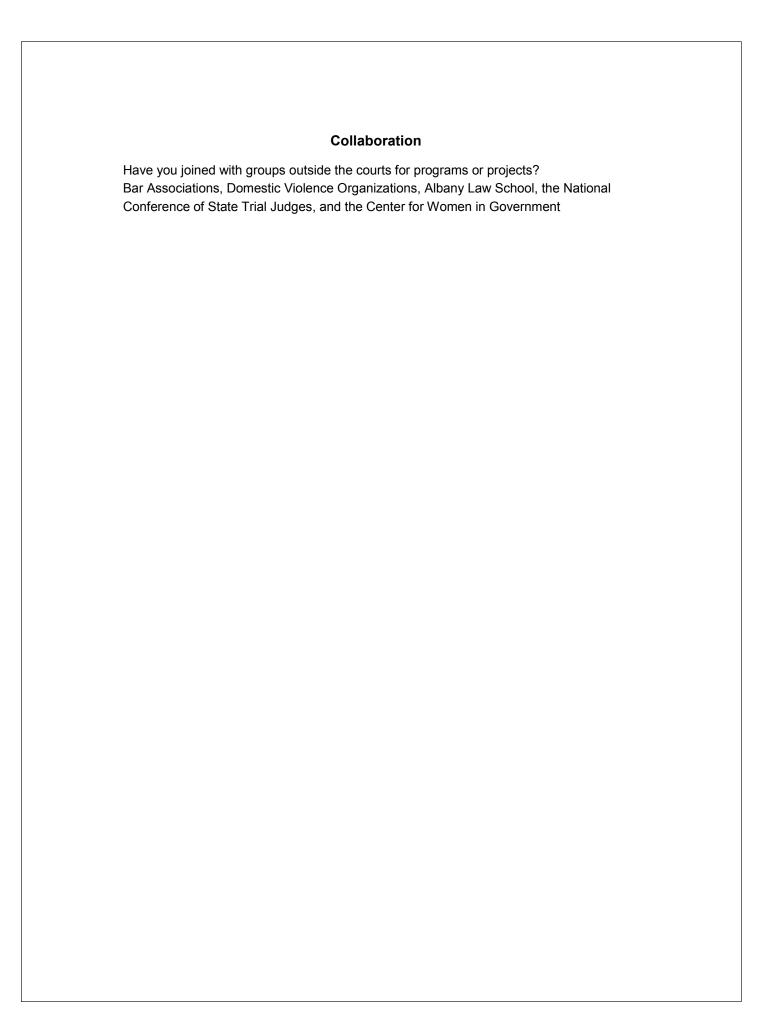
#### Concerns

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019? Judicial Diversity is still an issue in upstate New York. There is an even more pronounced lack of diversity in ADR panels upstate. Since jury trials are less frequent and the court system relies heavily on surrogate decision makers such as arbitrators, this lack of diversity is becoming a central issue.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Funding has decreased for our Family Court Children's Center; and the Albany Criminal Court would benefit from such a center as well.

Please share any areas of success during 2018 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts:

Several articles were published on the issue of Gender Fairness in ADR, authored by our Chair. Those articles appeared in the ABA Judicial Division Record; the NYSBA Judicial Dispatch; the NAWJ publication, Counterbalance; the Women's Bar Newsletter, and the Albany County Bar Newsletter. A small article also appeared in the Times Union newspaper. Recently, Judge Kretser also did a podcast on the issue for "Gavel Talks", which can be accessed on the ABA Judicial Division website.



#### Third District Gender Fairness Committee

#### ALBANY COUNTY

Hon. Andra Ackerman City Court Judge Cohoes City Hall - 97 Mohawk St Cohoes, NY 12047

Hon. Helena Heath Albany City Court Judge City Hall - Room 203 Albany, NY 12207

Hon. Rachel L. Kretser Albany City Court Judge - Retired 6 Greyledge Dr Loudonville NY 12211

Rika Murray, Support Magistrate Albany Family Court 30 Clinton Ave Albany NY 12207

Sarah Rogerson, Esq Associate Professor of Law Albany Law School Law Clinic & Justice Center 80 New Scotland Ave Albany NY 12208

Matthew Side, Sr. Principal Law Clerk Chambers of Hon. William E. McCarthy Albany County Courthouse 16 Eagle St - Room 271 Albany NY 12207 Patricia Beeler, Retired Chief Clerk Rensselaer County Family Court 30 Dove Dr Delmar NY 12054

Sheila Horton, Court Analyst Albany County Commissioner of Jurors Albany County Judicial Center 6 Lodge Street - Room 107 Albany, NY 12207

Joanne Macri Director of Regional Initiatives NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services 80 South Swan St - 29th Fl Albany, NY 12210

Hon. John C. Reilly Albany City Court Judge City Hall, Room 203 Albany NY 12207

Hon. Leslie E. Stein Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals Albany County Courthouse 16 Eagle St, Rm 310 Albany NY 12207

Hon. Margaret Walsh Supreme Court Justice Albany Supreme & County Court Albany County Courthouse 16 Eagle Street - Room 38 Albany NY 12207

#### **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

Chris McMurray, Deputy Chief Clerk Columbia County Multi-Bench Courts Columbia County Courthouse Hudson, NY 12534

Lisa A Frisch, Executive Director The Legal Project 24 Aviation Road Albany, NY 12205 Virginia Benedict, Esq. c/o Whitbeck Benedict & Smith, LLP 436 Union St Hudson NY 12534

#### **GREENE COUNTY**

Hon. Lisa M. Fisher Supreme Court Justice Greene Supreme & County Court Greene County Courthouse 320 Main St Catskill NY 12414

Brenda VanDermark, Chief Clerk Greene County Family Court Greene County Courthouse Catskill NY 12414

Edward Kaplan, Esq. County Attorney 411 Main St, Suite 443 Catskill NY 12144

#### RENSSELAER COUNTY

Hon. Andrew Ceresia Supreme Court Justice Rensselaer County Courthouse 80 Second St Troy NY 12180

Karen DeBenedetto, Chief Clerk Troy City Court 51 State St Troy NY 12180

Hon. Jill Kehn Troy City/Acting Family Court Justice 51 State St/Family Law Center @5th Ave Troy NY 12180

#### SCHOHARIE COUNTY

F. Christian Spies, Chief Clerk Schoharie County Courts, 290 Main St, P.O. Box 669 Schoharie, NY 12157

#### SULLIVAN COUNTY

Karen Linen, Esq. Sullivan County Supreme Court Sullivan County Government Center 100 North Street Monticello, NY 12701

#### **ULSTER COUNTY**

Hon. Christopher Cahill Supreme Court Justice Ulster County Courthouse 285 Wall Street Kingston, NY 12401

#### ADMINISTRATION

Thomas A Breslin Third Judicial District Administrative Judge 2500 Pond View, Suite 210 Castleton-On-Hudson, NY 12033

John Caher Sr. Advisor for Strategic Communications NY State Office of Court Administration 4 Empire State Plaza - Suite 2001 Albany NY 12223

Beth Diebel, Esq Third Judicial District Executive 2500 Pond View, Suite 210 Castleton-On-Hudson, NY 12033

# NOT SO BLIND A JUSTICE Implicit Bias and the Legal System

SAVETHE DATE FREE CLE

WHEN: Wednesday, June 13, 2018, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. (registration 12:30 - 1 p.m.)

WHERE: Third Judicial District Training Room

2500 Pond View, 1st Floor Castleton-on-Hudson, NY 12033

WHAT: Not so Blind Justice: Implicit Bias and the Legal System

WHO: Sponsored by the Third Judicial District, the Gender Fairness Committee of the Third JD, the Capital District Women's Bar Association and Albany Law School.

PRESENTERS: Mark D. Rogerson, Ph.D., and Mirna Santiago, Esq. There will be a panel discussion with —Hon. Christina Ryba, New York State Supreme Court Judge, Third Judicial District; Hon. William Carter, Albany County Court Judge; Lillian Moy, Director of the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York; Lisa Frisch, Director of The Legal Project; and Melissa Breger, Professor of Law at Albany Law School.

MODERATOR: Hon. Rachel Kretser (Ret.), adjunct faculty member, Albany Law School, chair, Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee

**DETAILS:** Fairness and impartiality are pillars of the legal system, but studies show that just as every person in the courthouse—judges, attorneys, non-judicial staff, jurors—brings his or her life experiences, they also bring their biases, stereotypes and preconceptions. Often, these biases are in the "hidden brain" and the individual is unaware of even harboring preconceptions that may well impact behavior and decision-making. This program seeks to raise the curtain on "behind-the-scenes" or "implicit" biases, so they can be identified and addressed in an effort to ensure that the justice system is fair and impartial.

CLE CREDIT: Three credits (two for diversity and one for professional practice)

REGISTRATION: https://goo.gl/forms/01oYGJM1mGPvYW4x2

MORE INFORMATION: Please contact Beth Diebel, District Executive, 518-285-8300, 3rdjdadministration@nycourts.gov

# GENDER EQUALITY

IN ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION: IF NOT NOW, WHEN?



JOIN US

# FOR A COMPLIMENTARY CLE SEMINAR PRESENTED BY THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

PRESENTERS: Hon. Victoria A. Graffeo, Hon. Karla Moskowitz, Hon. Mae A. D'Agostino, James E. Hacker

MODERATOR: Hon. Rachel Kretser (Ret.), Adjunct Faculty Member, Albany Law School, Chair, Third JD

Gender Fairness Committee.

CO-SPONSORS: The Albany County Bar Association Albany Law School; Capital District Black And Hispanic

Bar Association; Capital District Womens Bar Association; New York State Bar Association (Judicial, Commercial, and Federal Litigation, Women in the Law and Alternate Dispute Resolutions Sections); Northern District of New York Federal Bar Association; The Legal

Project; National Association of Women Judges

DATE & TIME: Thursday, March 21, 2018 3:00 PM - 5:45 PM | Registration and light refreshments at 2:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Albany Law School

CLE CREDIT: It is anticipated that 3 CLE credits will be awarded. Including one credit to fulfill the new requirement for

CLE in Diversity, Inclusion, and Elimination of Bias, and one credit for ethics. No charge due the generosity

of cosponsors.

Women are grossly under-represented among the ranks of paid mediators and arbitrators statewide, and especially so in the Third Judicial District. Why? This CLE presented by the Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee will explore that question, reveal how the selection process really works and provide insight from experienced mediators/arbitrators on how to break-in, fill-in and practice as a mediator/arbitrator.

# COMMENTARY

# Justice is best served through a diversity of arbitral

# By Rachel Kretser

cently released by the New York State Bar Association - "If Not A groundbreaking report re-Now, When? Achieving Equal-

our own anecdotal observations: ity for Women in the Courtroom many of us have suspected from represented as arbitrators and and ADR" - confirmed what Women are grossly under-

mediators, especially in complex, The evidence is overwhelmhigh-stakes cases.

ing.
The International Institute for Conflict Prevention and

disputes, 91 percent of insurance disputes, 82 percent of corporate and commercial disputes and 79 percent of class actions.

Please see DIVERSITY A11 P small-claims courts. Nationally handling disputes in family and there is a troubling inverse re-On the other hand, women low-paid or unpaid mediators feature prominently among

Committee.

In the Third Judicial District, a seven-

much of the Capital Region, the situation is even worse. county area that includes

brotherhood of mediators and Elvis mediating a high-stakes that I was "more likely to find described the Capital Region arbitrators as a "white male diators in the state recently wax museum," and told me dispute in this area than a woman or minority." That, One of the leading me-

legal education program at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Albany Law School. For registration for the free

program, go to http:// tinyurl.com/y7zcm3ts.

Why are women not in the game?

they've always been drawn, with little or Mediators and arbitrators tend to be tive dispute resolution companies tend drawn from the same pool from which no thought given to diversity. Alternait's a problem of inertia and (bad) habit.

arbitrators either don't know how to break a white male. And many women litigators and in this area that nearly always means to retain retired former appellate judges, Much has been written about the imporwho would make excellent mediators or in, or simply assume it's a closed club.

tance of judicial diversity, and of diversity in our jury pools. The past decade has witnessed a sharp decline in the number of cases that go to jury trial, and a correspond ing increase in the number of dispute resolution. It is just as important for these surrogate decision makers and facilitacases referred to alternative tors to reflect the population that the judiciary and juries and for all the same reasons they serve in the same way, should be diverse. dispute resolution will be the focus of a continuing

Studies have shown that the actual qualline. Disputes are about people. Neutrals o perspectives to the table, and bring a sense and concerns of diverse clients, bring new are decided by homogenous decision mak ers. Disputes aren't just about the bottom But it is more than just the perception of fairness that suffers; it is justice itself. varying backgrounds and ethnicities can better understand and address the needs ity of justice is compromised when cases of fairness to the entire process.

found that in cases with between stake, 82 percent of neutrals and men. Male neutrals handled 93 percent of intellectual property neutrals worldwide, 15 percent Resolution reports that of 550 the American Bar Association 89 percent of arbitrators were are women. A study issued by \$1 million and \$10 million at Dispute Resolution Section Rachel Kretser is a former Albany City Court judge and acting Albany County judge for domestic violence cases, and was the first woman to serve on a criminal court bench in the Third Judicial District. She is currently an adjunct professor at Albany Law School and chair of the judicial district's Gender Fairness

▼ CONTINUED FROM A10

lationship between the amount of money in contention and the probability that the arbitrator/mediator will be a woman.

■ The issue of gender

equality in alternative

abject, overt discrimination. Rather, I think alternative dispute resolution is a matter of tion: I am personally aware of two female I do not think the gender disparity in arbitrators in the Capital Region. Two! however, is a slight exaggera-

#### GENDER EQUALITY IN ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

BY HON, RACHEL KRETSER (RET.)

Hon. Rachel Kretser (Ret.), former Albany City Criminal Court Judge and Acting Albany County Court Judge for Domestic Violence Matters. She is currently an adjunct professor at Albany Law School and Chair of the OCA Third JD Gender Fairness Committee.



On March 21, 2018, the New York National Association of Women Judges chapter co-sponsored a highly successful CLE program on Gender Equality in ADR. The program, which I had the privilege of moderating, featured an all-star panel including former Court of Appeals Judge Victoria Graffeo, Federal District Court Judge Mae D'Agostino, former First Department Appellate Division Justice Karla Moskowitz and Mark Sonberg, Esq. Approximately 75 judges, lawyers and law students attended the live program, with an additional 57 participating by webcam and YouTube. It was inspired by the groundbreaking report of the NYSBA Commercial and Federal Litigation Section entitled, "If Not Now, When? Achieving Equality for Women in the Courtroom and ADR," which encourages members of the Judiciary, among others, to take steps to ensure that women lawyers are provided equal opportunity to participate in the courtroom, and as neutrals in alternative dispute resolution (ADR) proceedings.

Specifically, regarding ADR, the report encourages members of the judiciary, corporate clients, and ADR providers to afford women lawyers greater opportunity to be selected as neutrals in high-stakes litigation, where they are woefully underrepresented. Although the report addresses gender disparities in both litigation and ADR, this article focuses primarily on the latter and seeks to advance our understanding of the importance of diversity in dispute resolution, and offer ways to promote the inclusion of those individuals who have historically been excluded from meaningful participation in the ADR field.

The NYSBA surveyed state and federal judges asking them to record by gender the appearance of counsel in each court proceeding. They also surveyed ADR providers asking them to record the gender of neutrals conducting ADR proceedings. Over 2,800 questionnaires were returned and tabulated. The report confirmed what many of us have suspected from our own anecdotal observations: Women are grossly underrepresented as both litigators and arbitrators, especially in complex, high-stakes cases.

Until recently, the gender imbalance in ADR fell below the radar. but the evidence is overwhelming. Of 350 neutrals affiliated with JAMS, Law.Com found 25% women and 7% minorities. The International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR) reports that of 550 neutrals worldwide, 15% are women and 14% minorities. (See, Making Diversity Happen in ADR, Noah Hanft, NYLJ, March 2017). A study issued by the ABA Dispute Resolution Section in 2014 found that in cases with between one and ten million dollars at issue, 82% of neutrals and 89% of arbitrators were men. Male neutrals handled 93% of intellectual property disputes, 91% of insurance disputes, 82% of corporate and commercial disputes and 79% of class actions. (See, Brown, Gina Viola and Schneider, Andrea Kupfer, Gender Differences in Dispute Resolution Practice: Report on the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution Practice Snapshot Survey, Feb. 3, 2014.) Conversely, women feature prominently among low or unpaid mediators handling disputes in family and small claims courts. In other words, there is a direct inverse relationship between the amount of money in contention and the probability that the neutral will be a woman

#### What Accounts for the Lack of Diversity in ADR

The gender inequality in ADR cannot be attributed to a "pipeline" issue. Since the 1980's, women have comprised approximately half of the graduating classes in law schools. There are also increasing numbers of women trained in ADR. Yet there has been no commensurate increase in the appointment and selection of women to resolve big-ticket disputes.

This may be a problem of unconscious or implicit bias. Implicit bias studies demonstrate that the stereotyping mechanisms in our brains are not easily suppressed. But if gender stereotyping persists, it is puzzling that this has not translated into more, rather than less, reliance on women to resolve disputes given the fact that men are traditionally viewed as gladiators while women are thought to be conciliators, compromisers and consensus builders.

8 COUNTERBALANCE



One contributing factor may be the lack of accountability among ADR stakeholders, which makes finger pointing easy. Law firms claim that their clients want them to stay with "experienced, proven" mediators and arbitrators. Law firms also blame ADR organizations for failing to provide diverse lists. In-house counsel defer to law firms in the selection process and are unwilling to accept responsibility. In short, no one wants to claim ownership for the obvious lack of diversity in alternative dispute resolution.

The problem likely can be attributed to many factors: failure by some ADR providers to actively recruit diverse candidates, the perceived lack of access for diverse candidates, over-reliance on word-of-mouth and established networks, and an arbitrator selection process that lacks accountability and transparency.

#### Why Diversity in ADR Matters

Much has been written about the importance of judicial diversity, and of diversity in our jury pools (See, Batson v Kentucky, 476 US 79, 1986). Common sense tells us that the life experiences of people differ depending upon their race, gender and ethnicity, and that those differences impact our views, perceptions and decision making.

The past decade has witnessed a sharp decline in the number of cases that go to jury trial, and a concomitant increase in the number of cases referred to alternative dispute resolution. Accordingly, it is imperative that these surrogate decision makers and facilitators also reflect the population they serve. Lack of diversity among neutrals results in a loss of credibility in the eyes of the litigants and grievants.

But it is more than just the perception of fairness that suffers. Studies have shown that the actual quality of justice is compromised when cases are decided by homogenous decision



makers. Empirical analyses have confirmed that diverse judges decide certain types of cases differently than their white, male colleagues. (See, Pat K. Chew & Robert E. Kelley, Myth of the Color Blind Judge, 86 WASH. U. L.REV. 1117,2009; Adam B. Cox & Thomas J. Miles, Judging the Voting Rights Act, 108 COLUM. L. REV. 1, 2008; Jennifer L. Peresie, Female Judges Matter: Gender and Collegiate Decision Making in the Federal Appellate Courts, 114 YALE L.J. 1759, 2005. Whether decision-makers are judges or ADR professionals, the same considerations apply.

ADR is often annexed to the court system or is a substitute for the judicial process itself. ADR has increasingly become a critical component of our system of justice. Therefore, the lack of diversity in ADR is an issue of basic fairness that reflects upon the entire justice system.

#### Where Do We Go From Here?

A multifaceted problem requires a multifaceted solution; therefore, we need to address the diversity issue on multiple fronts.

- ADR providers must ramp up efforts to recruit women and minorities and diversify their rosters.
- Stakeholders should be reminded of the benefits of diversity on the quality of the decision-making process so that once women and minorities achieve a place on ADR lists, they also have a fair chance of being selected.
- Judges should try to ensure that any lists of neutrals provided by the court are diverse.
- Efforts should be made to increase transparency and accountability.
- Neutrals need to distinguish their profiles so that they can be identified by gender, race or other significant demographics, and ADR organizations should track the selection process to measure their progress.
- Clients should be encouraged to look beyond the short list of the "usual suspects" and embrace diverse arbitrators, mediators and referees for the wealth of talent and different experiences they bring to the process.
- 7. CLE programs on alternative dispute resolution should emphasize the need for increased diversity and encourage traditionally underrepresented groups to consider a career in ADR. Such groups should also be offered scholarships to facilitate their participation in ADR educational programs.
- Experienced neutrals should identify and mentor new, diverse mediators and arbitrators. The Code of Professional Responsibility for Arbitrators provides that one of the obligations an experienced arbitrator has to the profession is to cooperate in the training of new arbitrators.

#### Conclusion

Disputes aren't just about the bottom line; disputes are about people. Neutrals of varying backgrounds and ethnicities can better understand and address the needs and concerns of diverse clients, bring new perspectives to the table, and bring a sense of fairness to the entire process.

COUNTERBALANCE





FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

Hon. Polly A. Hoye, Chair; Tatiana Coffinger, Esq., Vice Chair; Elena Jaffe Tastenson, Esq., Vice Chair

#### **Fourth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts**

Hon. Polly A. Hoye, Chair

Members: Tatiana Coffinger, Esq., Vice Chair; Elena Jaffe Tastensen, Esq., Vice Chair

Counties served: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, St. Lawrence,

Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington

#### 2018 Meetings

Meeting Dates: No in person meetings; communication via email due to distance Do you use Videoconferencing? No

#### 2018 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month

- 1) Various dates between Feb. 22, 2018 and May 31, 2018: Fulton County; "Votes for Women" Reading and Discussion program (see attached news article);
- 2) March 8, 2018: Schenectady County; "Women of Achievement Celebration and Fundraiser" (see attached flyer).

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

- 1) September 29, 2018, Saratoga County: 7th Annual "Pooch Parade", sponsored by Wellspring (see attached flyer);
- 2) October 9, 2018, Fulton County: County Proclamation of "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" (see attached news article);
- 3) October 11, 2018, Saratoga County: "Girlfriends Helping Girlfriends", sponsored by Wellspring (see attached flyer);
- 4) October 18, 2018, Fulton County: Northville School District 2nd Annual "Walk for Domestic Violence Awareness" (see attached news article);
- 5) October 25, 2018, Fulton County: National Wear Purple Day and Domestic Violence Awareness Walk (see attached news article).

#### Other Special Events or Activities

- 1) February 21, 2018, Saratoga County: "Go Red for Women", sponsored by the Adirondack Women's Bar Assn (see attached flyer);
- 2) March 6, 2018, Fulton County: "Gift Card Shower" to benefit Guardian House, a residence for homeless female veterans, sponsored by the Women's Republican Club of Fulton County (see attached news article);
- 3) March 22, 2018, Fulton County: Leadership presentation by Sharon Burstein to AAUW (see attached news article);
- 4) April 13, 2018, Fulton County: "Intended Harm" presentation by a survivor of sexual assault (see attached news article);
- 5) April 24, 2018, Fulton County: Film and Discussion "Iron Jawed Angels" (see attached flyer);

- 6) April 25, 2018, St. Lawrence County: "Denim Day", sexual assault awareness fundraiser, sponsored by Renewal House (see attached newsletter article);
- 7) May 12, 2018, Fulton County: "Bloomers to Boomers", program and vintage fashion show highlighting relationship between the suffrage movement and women's clothing, sponsored by the Fulton County Museum (see attached flyer);
- 8) July, 2018, Fulton County: Essay Contest about women's activism, sponsored by AAUW, (see attached news article);
- 9) August 27, 2018, Fulton County: Garden Party and Women's Equality Award presentation, sponsored by the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Assn. (see attached news article);
- 10) November 3, 2018, Fulton County: "Well I have gone and Done It", lecture and discussion of Susan B. Anthony's trial for voting (see attached flyer and news article)

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email and Flyer

Who and how many attended? Varies depending on event

Was there any press before or after? Yes

#### **Future Plans**

Meetings dates for planned or projected events for 2019: Hope to meet quarterly

Special Events & Educational Programs

Women's History Month; We hope to put on a local event to raise awareness about trafficking, which we think is a problem in rural areas like ours.

For Women's History Month 2019, a theatrical production called "Votes For Women" is planned. For the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment in 2020, planning is ongoing for special celebrations, including the commission of a life-size bronze statue of Elizabeth Cady Stanton; a Women's Symposium (to be held March 28, 2020); a "Women's Revolution Bicycle Ride" to Seneca Falls, August 2020.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019? Training for court staff and attorneys regarding transgender issues; bathroom facilities for transgender litigants/jurors

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Child Care Centers and Supervised Visitation. There is a severe shortage of agencies and locations providing supervised visitations, especially on weekends. There is no childcare available for litigants while in court. More and more people are identifying as transgender or transitioning, and we aren't trained as to how to

accommodate them in addressing them and caring for their needs in court and court cases.

Do you see unmet training needs? Yes. See above regarding transgender individuals.

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse? Training on transgender issues

#### Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?

Bar Associations, Domestic Violence Organizations, and women's groups, such as AAUW and Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association

# Votes for Women humanities program to begin in Johnstown

JOHNSTOWN — Votes for Women is the theme for the upcoming reading and discussion program for adults.

According to a release, sponsored by the New York Humanities Council, the program is being organized locally by the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium. Jo-Ann Clear is serving as project director and Lauren Kozakiewicz is serving as program facilitator.

"With its thematic focus, this reading and discussion program offers an unusual twist on the standard book group format by making time for thinking deeply about one idea, over time, from a variety of perspectives," Executive director of Humanities New York Sara Ogger said.

Participants will come together at the Johnstown Public Library from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month from February to May to discuss a variety of thematically linked texts with the program facilitator.

Dates and books for the program are as follows:

#### Feb. 22, "Votes for Women: The Struggle for Suffrage Revisited."

Edited by Jean Baker, this collection of essays will be used to give the participants broad exposure to the suffrage movement as a whole.

 March 29, "Sex Wars: A Novel of Gilded Age New York," by Marge Piercy. This novel will acquaint participants with some of the broader cultural issues in play in the late 19th century. It will also bring in the working class, immigrant woman's perspective.

#### April 26, "Elizabeth Cady Stanton: An American Life," by Lori Ginzberg.

This biography will be particularly relevant to the program's location in Johnstown where Stanton grew up and began forming her ideas about gender equality. The discussion of this book is timed to the 100th anniversary in 2017 of the election that won New York's women the right to vote.

#### May 31, "African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote 1850-1920," by Rosalyn Terborg-Penn.

The series ends with a discussion about race and suffrage with an eye to appreciating the contributions of African American women to the suffrage campaign. The reading also gives participants exposure to the ways that race prevented these women from exercising this right of citizenship.

The program is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. Books will be provided by the Humanities Council and the Consortium. Registrants will be notified as the books become available for distribution. To sign up, call 518 774-7838 or email jaclear@nycap.rr.com.

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44 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12305 NorthEastern Rhyne: 518 374-3394 | Email: info@ywca-neny.org

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## Women of Achievement Celebration & Fundraiser

news/events

The YWCA NENY's 35th Annual Women of Achievement Celebration & Fundraiser will be held on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at the Glen Sanders Mansion. It promises to be a wonderful and inspirational evening spent recognizing an amazing group of women from our community.

Click HERE for the online reservation form.

#### Recognize a Woman on a Mission!

In honor of the YWCA NENY's 35th Annual Women of Achievement Celebration & Fundraiser, we would like to recognize 35 women from our community who are on a mission. Click HERE for more information.

# Nominations are now closed for the 2018 Women of Achievement Award. Please check back to find out who has been selected to join the Academy.

Nominees are women who have demonstrated unusual achievement and distinction in career and/or community work and who have made a difference in the elimination of discrimination on the basis of race, gender or creed. Nominees have overcome or helped to eliminate any racial, societal or professional barriers while serving as role models through the leadership qualities they exhibit.

# Pooch Parade!



Did you know that many victims of domestic violence choose to stay in an abusive situation for fear of retaliation against their pet? Wellspring's Safe Pet Partnership Program can help! Our program assists victims of domestic violence by providing safe, temporary placement of family pets through a network of pet "foster homes" while they reside in our shelter.

Pooch Parade is an annual event that helps raise awareness and funds for our Safe Pet Partnership program!

What? A fun day for you and your pooch filled with 'pawdicures' (nail clippings), an agility course, pet vendors, free giveaways, a raffle and more followed by a walk with your pooch and the community around Congress Park!

When? Saturday, September 29, 10:00 Registration and activities, 11:00 Walk begins (rain or shine!)

Where? Congress Park, Saratoga Springs

How much? \$5 for pooches and people are free! You can either register by clicking here now, at the walk or by calling 518-583-

#### THANK YOU to our 2018 Mission Sponsors!

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### Proclamation recognizing hospice workers and domestic violence set

By MICHAEL ANICH The Leader-Herald

JOHNSTOWN - The Fulton County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday issued proclamations recognizing hospice care and domestic violence awareness.

Proclamations were issued during the board's monthly session at the County Office Building.

Gloversville 1st Ward Supervisor Marie Born read the hospice proclamation in the presence of several staff from Mountain Valley Hospice in Gloversville.

The board declared October to be "National Hospice and Palliative Care Month" in Fulton

proclamation notes: "Medicare's first-proven coordi-

fers person-centered compassionate care that ensures people dignity, choice and quality of life ... The hospice model involves an interdisciplinary, team-oriented approach to treatment, including expert medical care, quality symptom control, and comprehensive pain management as a foundation of care."

"Beyond providing physical treatment, hospice attends to the patient's emotional, spiritual and family needs, and provides family services like respite care and bereavement counseling," the proclamation stated.

The proclamation indicated that more than 1.5 million Americans living with life-lim-

nated care model, hospice, of- iting illness and their families every year receive care from the nation's hospice programs.

Kara Travis, president and CEO of Mountain Valley Hospice, told the board: "Thank you so much. We really appreciate the recognition. We appreciate your support."

Oppenheim Supervisor Cynthia Breh read another proclamation issued by the board. That proclamation declared October to be "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Fulton County.

"Domestic violence affects all New Yorkers, and far too many people suffer abuse at the hands of a spouse or partner," the proclamation read. "Domestic violence victims can be of any

age, race, religion, or economic status and the resulting damage is inflicted not only on victims, but their children, families and communities.'

The proclamation went on to state: "Fulton County's commitment to ending domestic violence is exemplified by the work of county agencies and their employees that are assisting victims and their families. The Board of Supervisors recognizes the outstanding work of the region's dedicated not-for-profit organizations that serve victims and their communities."

Michael Anich covers Johnstown and Fulton County news. He can be reached at manich@leaderherald.com.



The Leader-Herald/Michael Anich

The Fulton County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday issued a proclamation declaring November as "National Hospice and Palliative Care Month" in the county. The proclamation was read Gloversville 1st Ward Supervisor Marie Born, second from left, at the County Office Building in Johnstown. Appearing from left are: Board Chairman James Groff; Born; and these Mountain Valley Hospice employees: Kara Travis, president/CEO; Amy Osborne, chief financial officer; Adrienne Quickenton, lead social worker; Dana Monk, nurse manager; Cora Jones, HR manager; and Marjorie Sargent, clinical director.

Leader-Herald 10-11-18

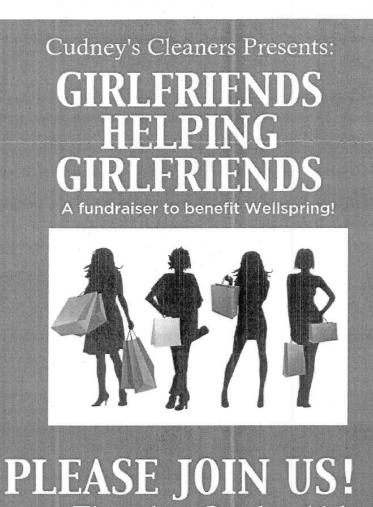


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Su



Thursday, October 11th Longfellow's Inn

Ending relationship and sexual abuse in our community

Save the date for this year's Girlfriends Helping Girlfriends event at Longfellows on October 11th!

Join us for a fun night filled with shopping, a fashion show, food, drinks & more! All proceeds raised will be used to help support Wellspring's programs and services.

Domestic violence and sexual assault are prevalent in our community, but often hidden from view. Girlfriends is an event that helps raise funds to increase awareness so that individuals know there is a place to get help nearby.

Pre-sale tickets cost \$50 and can be purchased here or by calling 518-583-0280.



The Leader-Herald/Briana O'Hara Northville School District students, staff and community members pose for a photo after walking in the Walk for Domestic Violence Awareness on Thursday

#### Northville holds village-wide walk for domestic violence awareness

By BRIANA O'HARA The Leader-Herald

NORTHVILLE - Students, staff and community members walked for Domes-Violence throughout the village on Thursday with some carrying signs that read "End the vio-lence," "Domestic violence prevention call 1-800-855-9723" and "1 in 7 men are victims of domestic violence.

This was the second annual domestic violence walk and coin drive sponsored by Students Against Destructive Decisions with proceeds going to the Fulton County Domestic Violence program, which is housed at The Family Counseling Center.

"I look forward to doing this every single year and hopefully we can have more and more people attend because we do feel awareness is im-portant," said Carla Williams, third-grade teacher and co-advisor of SADD.

Darlene D'Onofrio, team leader with the Fulton County Domestic Violence program said domestic violence crosses all lines, including economic and racial. It can happen to men, women and

Domestic violence can be either physical, emotional or

"It can be anything from physical abuse - which is what you normally would think of - to things like controlling behavior you're not allowed to go to work, not allowed to see certain friends, or you're not allowed to have keys to your car, banking information, or things the other person puts upon you to control you," D'Onofrio said.

She said people will often be socially isolated by their do-mestic partner, sometimes not



Northville students participate in the school's Walk for Domestic Violence Awareness on Thursday.

even allowing them to associate with family members as

"We've been finding so much more of that than the physical abuse," D'Onofrio said. "Sometimes people don't realize that really is domestic violence

The Fulton County Domestic Violence program has a domestic violence shelter which can house up to nine people - women, children or

The shelter provides them with all essential needs and supplies such as clothing and food. They also enroll children in school if need be.

D'Onofrio said it's impor-tant to educate youth because young children and teens are

most likely seeing domestic violence or similar issues in their homes.

"As they grow up, they're kind of having the same sort of cycles in their relationships and not realizing it as domestic violence," D'Onofrio said.

According to a pamphlet by the Fulton County Domestic Violence program, in the United States a woman is battered by her partner every 15 seconds; more than two million women are battered every year; and men can also be victims of relationship

Some warning signs can be controlling money or refusing to let someone keep any money; refusing to let some-

one have their own transportation; hitting, biting, pinching, scratching, pushing, slapping or forcing sex; calling demeaning names, yelling, ignoring someone or putting someone down; and threatening to take children or threatening to kick their partner out of the home.

"We need to spread awareness. I feel that it should be heard more, especially in small communities. It's everywhere," said Avery Bradt, president of SADD.

Anyone who may be in a relationship with domestic violence or who knows someone who is can call the Fulton County Domestic Violence hotline at (518)725-5300.

# Dozens show up for Stop Domestic Violence walk

#### By BRIANA O'HARA The Leader-Herald

JOHNSTOWN - Those driving in the city Thursday evening may have noticed a parade of students and community members dressed in purple, making a lot noise and waving signs that read "Niceness is priceless," "End the violence," "Love should never hurt," "Hands hurt," "Hitting belongs on the field," and "Keep calm and stop domestic violence.'

The Fulton County Domestic Violence Walk and National Purple Day was held yesterday starting at the Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery Prevention Council on Briggs Street.

There to support the event were the WALK - On Page 7A



Johnstown students and community members who participated in the Domestic Violence Awareness walk pose for a photo following the walk on Thursday.

Photo by Briana O'Hara The Leader-Herald



The Leader-Herald/Briana O'Hara

Above and below, Johnstown students and community members participate in the Domestic Violence Awareness walk on Thursday.

#### Continued from Page 1A

Johnstown football team, cross country team, Gloversville Mayor Dayton King, Gloversville Police Chief Marc Porter and other members of the police department, Fulton County Undersheriff Daniel Izzo, Jennifer Donovan, who represented Sen. Jim Tedisco, and Fulton County District Attorney Chad Brown.

"Domestic violence in our community is something we try to make everyone aware of, the dangers of it, of the problems that result from it," Brown said. "It has a traumatic effect on the

victim, the families who also in turn end up being victims."

He said having the community aware of domestic violence is important. He said anyone who sees or notices anything concerning or problematic to contact local police or services if necessary.

Brown said anyone can be affected by domestic violence, whether it be elderly or young adults, and it's important to protect them as a community.

"I think especially in the younger group, if it's happening in a friend's house or if it's happening in their household, it's detrimental," Brown said. "It affects whether they go to school and what happens to them later on in life, so it's very important

that if they know or see something, they should try some way to reach out to give those people who are victims of it to give them someone who they know is there for them, being an ear for them and hopefully giving them a safe place.

"I'd like to thank everybody for coming out and showing their support for domestic violence awareness and we appreciate the support from all the police departments, and especially the kids who come out and help us every year, HFM Prevention for hosting us, and Chad Brown and the district attorney's office for setting this all up for us," said Darlene D'Onofrio, team leader with the Fulton County Domestic Violence program.

# The Adirondack Women's Bar Association's

#### 9th Annual



Wednesday, February 21, 2018 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Bailey's Saratoga 37 Phila Street Saratoga Springs, New York

Highlights include guest speaker Cardiologist Dr. Roland Phillips, appetizers, cash bar, and Silent Auction and Raffle of items donated by local businesses.

\$30 if payment made in advance \$40 at the door RSVP to Maggie Place (518) 708-6393 mplace@dowlinglawny.com

Event sponsorships available! Please contact Maggie Place.

#### FULTON COUNTY EXP

week of February 22-28, 2018

#### GOP women to host gift card shower

The Women's Republican Club of Fulton County is sponsoring a Gift Card Shower on Tuesday, March 6 from 6 to 8 p.m. to say thank you to the those women who have served the country.

According to a release, Director Cheryl Hage-Perez and Assistant Director Mianna Magliocca will speak about the Guardian House program and the women who are served by the program.

Guardian House is a shelter for homeless female veterans located at 1214 Saratoga Road, Ballston Spa. It is a historical home that houses up to eleven female veterans.

The grassroots effort to establish a veteran's home for women began in 2008 and was quickly adopted by many service groups and individuals as a project to become part of; as a result, over \$500,000 was raised through donations and grants.

Guradian House is one of two homes in the State of New York that focuses specifically on women veterans, the release states. The women come from various military backgrounds. The causes that have led to homelessness include sexual assault trauma, substance abuse and deep depression. The program partners with organizations that teach nursing, carpentry and mechanics to give the house residents tangible skills they can use once they move on.

The program is open to the public and each attendee is asked to purchase a gift card in any denomination to make a donation to Guardian House. Gift cards may be purchased for any of the many stores in the Saratoga Springs area.

The shower will be held at the Johnstown Senior Citizens Center. Anyone interested in attending or donating a gift card may call Jo-Ann Clear at 518-774-7838, or e-mail jaclear@nycap. rr.com for more information.

# k of Warch 15-21, 2016

# Leadership, mentoring focus at upcoming AAUW event

GLOVERSVILLE — An award winning author and leadership image speaker, Sharon A. Burstein, will appear during the annual dinner meeting of the Amsterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch of the American Association of University Women.

The meeting will take place on March 22 at 5:30 p.m. at Harold's Restaurant in Gloversville. The election of branch officers for the 2018-19 year and a vote on the branch budget will also be held.

According to a release, Sharon A. Burstein's book, "Life Snacks - 50 Tasty Motivational Messages," won the Readers Choice Award in 2015. In her speaking, she uses humor and engages each audience integrating a multi-sensory approach for greater long-term memory retention. Every presentation is interactive, filled with energy and rich in content and custom designed to fit the goals of the audience, the release states.

To focus on mentoring, AAUW members are encouraged to bring a young guest to hear the inspirational presentation. The cost is \$25 or \$15 for students, which includes



Photo submitted Sharon A. Burstein

the dinner buffet and speaker fee. The buffet includes baked chicken, meatless lasagna, potatoes, vegetable, salad, coffee and tea. Cake will be provided by the branch for dessert. The deadline to RSVP is March 16. Checks payable to AAUW may be sent to Nancy Peck, 493 Warren Rd., Gloversville 12078.

The branch business meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:15 p.m. Burstein will speak at 7 p.m. For more information or to make a reservation, call branch co-president Peck at 518-661-7558 or e-mail npeck@nycap.rr.com.

# Overcoming intended harm to help others

The Leader-Herald

JOHNSTOWN - At age 17, Diana akley was kidnapped and sexually ears later, Oakley is an author who redicates her time to sharing the story ssaulted by a stranger. Now nearly 27

Fulton County Domestic Violence Oakley shared her story at FMCC on Friday in an event presented by the

sketch led her to suspect her husband,

Program for students in the criminal

justice program during National Crime Victim's Rights Week.

"As people who will be working

closely with victims, you could very son that makes a difference in the life

"Who knows maybe some day someone will be standing on

me," Oakley said

standing on stage, telling their story

someone

how

about

an impact you had on

about how much of

stage, telling

much of an impact you had on their

lives."

well be the one per-

maybe some day someone will be

"Who knows

topes of inspiring other survivors to of that day and her oad to recovery in eek the help that hey need.

"Every time we lirectly to a survivor peak out, we speak t's very important hat we expand our very victim," Oakwho needs our help. In her book, "Insaid.

ALL VICAN

Rights Week 2018

im into authorities after a police 3y tells her story of urvival and that of be woman who was acker before turning anded Harm," Oaknarried to her at-

Diana Oakley Author of "Intended Harm" their lives."

On April 28, 1991, Oakley went for a 15-mile bike

ride near her home HARM - On Page 7A

The man took her to a field clearly telling her to stand up, threatening her with a hatchet turn around and run. She while he tied her hands behind thought someone had come to her back. Then they got back in her rescue before realizing there the runst, where he made her sit. Was no one there.

over the course of hours. Unit Luter, he covered her head I'm with her shorts instructing her not to look at him or the truck. If Unobserved, she pushed up her

shorts and saw him reaching for something on the floor of the truck before going to the truck bed for something else.
Oakley knew that the only
thing on the floor had been shotgun shells and realizing that she considered running away before deciding to wait for the

the man was looking for a gun.

caught the attention of the at-tacker's wife, leading her to call police. According to Oakley, police had her attacker in custody by May 1, 1991, and he was ul-

could not release her name and

Suddenly, she heard a v

But I knew that I wasn't going to get any better unless I started dealing with this trauma." Oak. assault to the back of my mind that it had become comfortable there. I'd learned to live with it. the memory and the pain of my

Oakley made small steps to-wards recovery after meeting her future husband at age 21 and later becoming pregnant with their first child. It wasn't until excryone around me saw me as their first child. It warn tunfil the gift who was raped, the gift years later when she read Alice who was damaged, broken, the Sebold's memoir, "Lucky, gift who had a gaping, bleeding, about her sexual assault and how feelering, open wound in her I is shaped her life that Onsleey Fel "For many years after that I thought of myself and I thought dropping out once more. Oak-

stopped looking at myself as lunfixable and started fixing." it shaped her life that Oakley felt empowered to take an active role in her recovery.

reau, runs a faith based support group for sexual assault sur-

and the Domes that falking about my assault gave it power;" Oakley said. "I want you to know how important it is to not let the things that we think break us control us vivors and has returned to school to become a sexual us-"For years I believed the lie and define us and stop us from becoming people we're in-tended to be."

one. I want them to get help and support, because I didn't story connecting with people and especially survivors have partnered on.
'It's wonderful, there has ing pain and turning it into a powerful message of hope." and especially survivors through other programs they ing counseling services," Beers said. "She is the epitome of takhas not come forward stating that they're a survivor and seeknever been a time that someone

As a graduate of FMCC's jus-tice program, Beers said she thought the event would be a Diana Oakley, holding her book "Intended Harm," poses with staff from the Fulton County Domestic Violence Program before an event presented by the program at FMCC on Friday. Oakley shared the story of how she recovered after being kidnapped and sexually assaulted at 17.

Photo courtesy of Chendra Beers

good fit for the school during a time when the McToo move-ment has raised the collective awareness around sexual as-While providing an educational experience for students. Beers also hoped the presenta-tion would make students and vivors of sexual assault and do-

sault nurse examiner.

Services include a safe shel-r. victim's advocates, transgroups, transitional housing and

> Fulton County Domestic Violence Program Chenda Beers

said that she has seen Oakley's

hospital. In a time before phones, Oakley said she felt te had no choice but to go ith the man knowing she how sorry he was for the ac-nt and offered to take her to ork and was on her way home then she was suddenly struck When she looked up she saw pickup truck parked at the de of the road and a man rushtowards her. The man told Continued from Page 1.A feet across the pavement.

wasn't until after she got the truck that she realized man who seemed so gen-ie had lied to her. The actual abduction only ok a few minutes. Minutes for im to hit me with his car, park the side of the road, conhe wanted to help me and ir and drive away in the mid-

her beek, where he made between her states that the performance of her board. While the field between her states have been another 10 min.

While the field her than the got bask in was that were the course of hours. When the track stopped in the forest stopped in the field and stong but on the course of hours.

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In the track where the man chased after her while the man chased after her where the woods where the example where the example where the example where the example and the shorts instructing phen is sight. 200 yands away when the woods where the example with her shorts instructing the man chased formally man and friends for the course of hours.

In the first of the course of ho

they tried to be." Oakley said. the She graduated from high the school, going on to attend com- B munity college before dropping out. She enrolled again before Police and paramedics came, transporting her to the hospital, a statement, spoke who made a composite sketch of her attacker that was featured and met with an investigator in local newspapers and news briefly with a rape counselor

ations.

The sketch and information with alcohol, later with drugs. After that day, Oakley tried unsuccessfully to return to her normal life. As a minor police

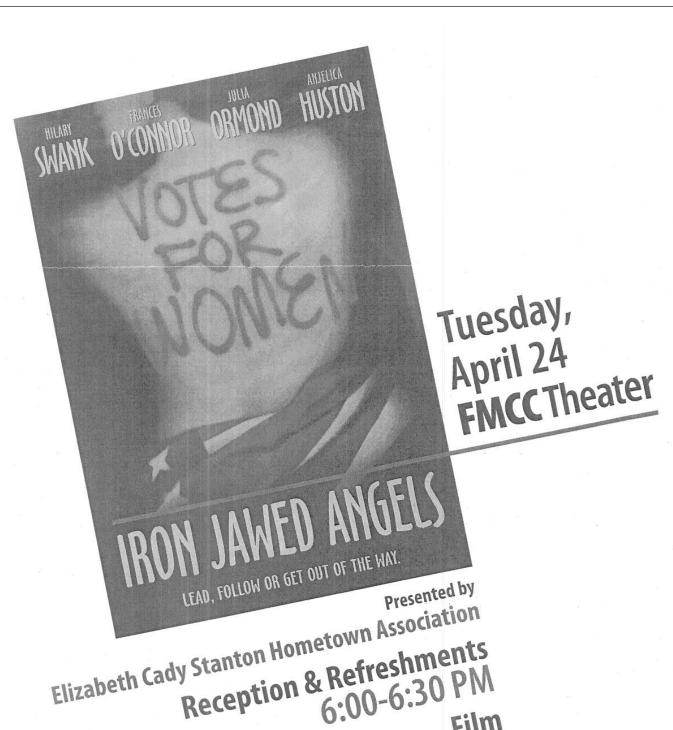
When she returned to school sout that was never going to be sometore else explain how & faces National Network she said she heard a collective fromtal spain." Oakley said. "I being raped made them feel and speckers between, Chairman of Sasp. Most students dicht traik, stopped seeing me and 1 only 11 was the first time in 15 years the Victin Service Center vio to her, which she was relieved, saw a victim."

Soliday began writing her graph to the story out on paper. Before aban with doing that format for an online it is found. Noping she would be we should be a spurred on if at least one person it. was reading her story. People in degran following her blog and it witing her to thank her for her courage, sometimes sharing of their own storbes of surywal.

it was no longer our pain to bear as abnormal and broken, jus-like I did, was the moment there that thou

Oakley said.
Gradually she worked to-wards her recovery, publishing wards her recovery, publishing to book in 2012, Now Oakley

38



Film

6:30 PM

FREE but donations will be accepted Are you registered to vote?

Elizabeth

# **Upcoming Events**

# National Volunteer Week - April 15-25, 2018

Thank you to all the volunteers who give their time to provide support to the organizations they choose to serve!

# Denim Day is Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Join us as we celebrate Denim Day and the fact that clothing is NEVER AN EXCUSE for sexual assault.

Why denim? Whether a person's jeans are baggy, tight, skinny, full of holes, short, long, bootcut, jeggings, or leggings, there is NEVER AN EXCUSE for sexual assault.

## The History of Denim Day

Denim Day grew out of a 1998 Italian Supreme Court decision that overturned a rape conviction because the victim wore tight jeans.

An 18-year old girl is picked up by her married, 45-year old driving instructor for her very first lesson. He takes her to an isolated road, pulls her out of the car, wrestles her out of one leg of her jeans, and forcefully rapes her. Threatened with death if she tells anyone, he makes her drive the car home. Later that night she tells her

parents, and they help and support her to press charges. The perpetrator gets arrested and is prosecuted. He is convicted of rape and sentenced to jail.

He appeals the sentence. The case makes it all the way to the Italian Supreme Court. Within a matter of days the case against the driving instructor is overturned, dismissed, and the perpetrator released. In a statement by the Chief Judge, he argued, "because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex."

Enraged by the verdict, within a matter of hours, the women in the Italian Parliament launched into immediate action and protested by wearing jeans to work. This call to action motivated and emboldened the California Senate and Assembly to do the same.

People all over the world were outraged, and wearing jeans became an international symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes and myths surrounding sexual assault.

Denim Day is a symbolic gesture of how a community can help change perceptions about violence against women, men and children.

We are asking community members, elected officials, business people and students to make a statement by wearing jeans on April 25th as a visible means of protest against misconceptions that surround sexual assault.

You may even consider charging your employees each \$5 to wear denim on Wednesday, April 25th as a donation to Renewal House to support victim services.

# Music and Arts Festival - Sunday, June 10, 2018

This year's Music and Arts Festival will be held from Noon—6pm on Sunday, June 10th at Bella Brooke Vineyard, 2989 County Route 6, Hammond.

The cost is \$5 per person, 12 and under are free. This is a family

event, rain or shine. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy food, entertainment and the arts and crafts available for purchase.

If you are interested in being a part more information. of this event, please contact us at renewalhouse@verizon.net.

To learn more about Bella-Brooke Vineyard, visit their website at www.bella-brookevineyard.com.

Save the date and watch for more information.

# Stop the Violence Golf Tournament - Saturday, September 29, 2018

In preparation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, Renewal House will host a Stop the Violence Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 29th at St. Lawrence University's Oliver D. Appleton Golf Course, 100 East Main Street in Canton.

The format is Captain and Crew with a shotgun start at 1pm.

The cost is \$400 per team. Member price is \$80 per person. Your cost includes green fee, cart, and dinner after the tournament.

Tournament competitions may include:

Putting contest

Hole in One wins \$500.

Longest drive male and female

Closest to the pin

50/50 drawing

Help STOP THE VIOLENCE by participating in our tournament this year.

A registration form will be on our website at slvrenewalhouse.org.

Please register by September 22nd.

# 















4:30 - 4:40 Welcome and Introductions/Thank Yous 4:40 - 5:00 Vintage Fashion Show Part I

by Laurie Kozakiewicz, Secretary

5:00 - 6:00 Enjoy Your High Tea

courtesy of McLemon's

"UnderWhere?: The Bloomer & Dress Reform Movement'

by Kjirsten Gustavson

sociated undergarments. In 1851/2 the suffrage movement for a time, contrast-Bloomer dress and dress reform movement, which was directly linked to the ed mightily with the more fashionable women's clothing and the layers of as-This program is an up close look at clothing of the day.

6:00 - 6:20 Vintage Fashion Show Part II

200000

237 Kingsboro Ave, Gloversville, NY 12078 Fulton County Historical Society & Museum E-mail: fultoncohist@frontier.com (518) 725-2203

41

# AAUW awards Canajoharie and Northville graduates

sterdam-Gloversville-Johnstown branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) announces the winners of the

The first place award of \$500 went to Samantha Field from Canajoharie High School. The second place award of \$300 was received by 2018 AAUW Dorothy Wem- Northville High School gradu-

Those entering the contest wrote an essay answering the question, "If you were to choose to become an activist like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, what field would you choose and why?"

Applicants expressed a variety of interests. The essays were well written and illustrated how many were already active in their chosen field. The essays were not judged by the field chosen but rather on the thought process and English usage.

First place winner, Samantha Field from Canajoharie High School chose school shootings and safety. Not only did she organize a peaceful walkout to comkilled in Florida recently, but she has also has spoken several times at Board of Education meetings about school safety, and helped approve a school resource officer.

Northville High School chose Right to Life, and has been attending the March for Life in Washington D.C. since the

Other student essays submitted concerned organ donation, women's health, opioid abuse, global warming, cruelty to animals, freedom of choice and the internet of things.

The contest is open to students in Fulton, Montgomery and Hamilton counties. The AAUW Literary Award is given annually in memory of Dorothy Anderson Wemple who was a member of AAUW for over 50 years and a member of the local AAUW branch since its inception in 1967. Wemple, who died in 2007, was an English teacher at Knox Junior High School in Johnstown and was a past judge for the essay contest which began in 1991. Jahnn Gibson and memorate the 17 students Linda Hammond served as chairs of the AAUW High School Literary Award. Readers included Gibson, Paula Lerner, and Laurie Kozakiewicz

AAUW is an organization of Hannah Coupas, from college graduates whose mission is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association



# Sandra Maceyka Receives Equality Award from The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association (ECSHA) celebrated Women's Equality Day on Monday, August 27 with their annual Garden Party at the home of Patsy and Tom Suydam in Johnstown. Ms. Maceyka was instrumental in starting The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association, and serves on the boards of The Schine Memorial Hall, Fulton County YMCA, Lexington Arc, FMCC Foundation, The Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium, and AAUW. She is active in many other organizations as well, working tirelessly to make our community a better place.

Congress designated August 26 as Women's Equality Day in 1971 to commemorate the 1920

certification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. Since then, Women's Equality Day has served as a reminder of the work that still needs to be done to

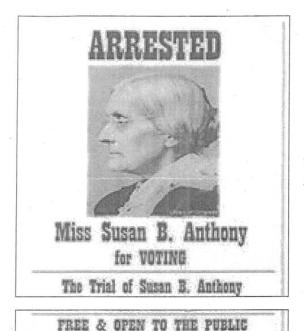
All proceeds from the event benefited the work of the ECSHA including The Sunflower Shoppe on Main Street in Johnstown, which assists women returning to the workforce with their career clothing

work toward full equality.



Photo caption: Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association Co-chair, Bonnie V alachovic, and Treasurer, Barbara Taylor, present this year's Equality Award to Sandra Maceyka.

needs. ECSHA also sponsors Elizabeth and Eileen's Prom Dress Closet, in addition to the, "Walk in the Footsteps of Elizabeth Cady Stanton" cell phone tour, which tells the story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and her relationship to local sites.



Fulton County
Courthouse at
2PM Sat Nov 3rd
Hear the account of
Susan B. Anthony
being put on trial
for voting

"Well I have Gone & Done It" as told by Laurie Kozakiewicz, PhD Lecturer, Dept of History SUNYA followed by refreshments & discussion at the James Burk Inn – 201 S William St. Donations Are Welcomed & Will support ECSWC for the Exciting & Extraordinary ECSWSymposium March 28th 2020 Please RSVP to 518-762-7638

# FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS

Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas, Chair

# Fifth Judicial District Committee on Women in the Courts

Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas, JSC, Chair

Members: See attached list

Counties served: Onondaga, Oneida, Oswego, Jefferson, Herkimer, Lewis

2018 Meetings

Meeting Dates: NA Average Attendance: 0

Do you use Videoconferencing? No

# 2018 Special Events

Special Events or Activities NA

# **Future Plans**

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2019: February 26, 2019, March 20, 2019, TBD dates in May or early June for event, September 16, 2019

Special Events & Educational Programs

Discrimination in the Courts - A Forum

We intend to hold a program in at least four of the six counties in the district addressing discrimination in the courts. The program will be for the public, attorneys and court personnel. We hope to be able to learn what issues exist so we can work with attorneys and administration to correct them.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019? Discrimination; stress management; bullying; domestic violence

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Child Care Centers; Supervised Visitation; Breastfeeding Space; Language access/interpreters (availability, quality, or general usage of interpreters, both within and outside of the courtroom).

Do you see unmet training needs? Yes, language, electronic, and discrimination

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 - 2:00 in the courthouse? None

# Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects? Bar Associations; Colleges; Domestic violence organizations

# WOMEN IN THE COURT COMMITTEE

Membership List 2019

Christine M. Barry, Esq.
Support Magistrate
Oneida County Family Court
Oneida County Courthouse
200 Elizabeth Street
Utica, NY 13501
cbarry@nycourts.gov

Hon. Bernadette Clark Oneida County Courthouse 200 Elizabeth Street Utica, NY 13501 btclark@nycourts.gov

Annalise M. Dykas, Esq. Associate Court Attorney Oswego County Family Court 39 Churchill Road Oswego, NY 13126 amdykas@nycourts.gov

Timothy J. Fennell, Esq. Amdursky, Pelky, Fennell & Wallen, PC 26 E. Oneida St. Oswego, NY 13126 tfennell@apflaw.com

Cindy Granger, Esq. Karp Law Offices 428 South Main Street North Syracuse, NY 13212 cgranger @karp-law.com

Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas Onondaga County Courthouse, Rm. 401 401 Montgomery Street Syracuse, NY 13202 dkaralun@nycourts.gov Bonnie Gail Levy, Esq. New York State Attorney General's Office Syracuse Regional Office 615 Erie Boulevard West Syracuse, NY 13204-2410 Bonnie.Levy@AG.NY.gov

Maureen Maney, Esq. Green & Reid 173 Intrepid Lane Syracuse, NY 13205 mmaney@greenereid.com

Hon. Charles C. Merrell Lewis County Courthouse 7660 N. State Street Lowville, NY 13367 cmerrell@nycourts.gov

Hon. Michelle Pirro-Bailey Family Court Justice Onondaga County Courthouse, Suite 120 401 Montgomery Street Syracuse, NY 13202 mbailey@nycourts.gov

Sandra Sabourin, Esq. c/o Hon. Deborah H. Karalunas Suite 401 Onondaga County Court House 401 Montgomery Street Syracuse, NY 13202 ssabouri@nycourts.gov



Hon. Teresa D. Johnson and Mary Aufleger, Chairs

# **Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee**

Co-Chairs: Hon. Teresa D. Johnson, Supv. Judge, City Courts, 7th JD and Mary

Aufleger, Deputy District Executive, 7th JD

Members: Please see attached list.

Counties served: Monroe, Ontario, Steuben, Cayuga, Livingston, Seneca, Wayne, Yates

# 2018 Meetings

Meeting Dates: January 17, March 14, May16, July 18, November14

Average attendance: 7

Do you use Videoconferencing? Yes

# 2018 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month

We presented a program, Sexual Harassment Issues and the Courts, on two dates, May 22nd and June 12th. On May 22nd Kay-Ann Porter Campbell, Managing Inspector General for Bias Matters, presented a wealth of information about sexual harassment and OCA's response to it, including how to proceed with a claim. She answered questions for the attendees and gave out information about how to contact her office with additional questions or to file a complaint. the June 12th program was a follow-up to allow individuals to reflect on the May 22nd program and to speak with the appropriate personnel if they had questions personal to experiences they had had or had seen.

Other Special Events or Activities

As a follow-up to our May/June events we had the sexual harassment policy distributed to all personnel in the District.

How were your special events advertised or marketed?

Email and Flyer. We presented the program with the Susan B. Anthony Center at the University of Rochester. they advertised it through their channels.

Who and how many attended? Approximately 50 people attended the May event. Those in attendance included judges, lawyers, court security, clerical staff, law clerks and other non-judicial personnel. The June event had 10 people in attendance, a similar mix.

Was there any press before or after? No

### **Future Plans**

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2019: February 21, April 24, June 26, August 28, October 23, December 11

# **Special Events & Educational Programs**

Domestic Violence Awareness Month program is being planned.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019?

The lack of child care available in some of the small counties. Behavioral stereotypes that fall short of the strict definition of sexual harassment but are nevertheless limiting.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women?

Child Care Centers and Breastfeeding Space: The lack of child care centers and breastfeeding space in the smaller counties presents difficulties for litigants and the court in trying to focus on the issues at hand.

Do you see unmet training needs? Yes. Would like to see training with respect to the behavioral issues set forth above.

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 - 2:00 in the courthouse? Effective strategies for dealing with difficult people (court personnel, attorneys and litigants) to diminish inappropriate behavior.

Areas of success during 2018 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts:

The programs we put on highlighting sexual harassment issues, and the distribution of material, has made it easier for individuals to talk about those issues with the appropriate staff. they have learned that they don't have to just endure it, even if they decide, ultimately, not to file a formal complaint.

#### Collaboration

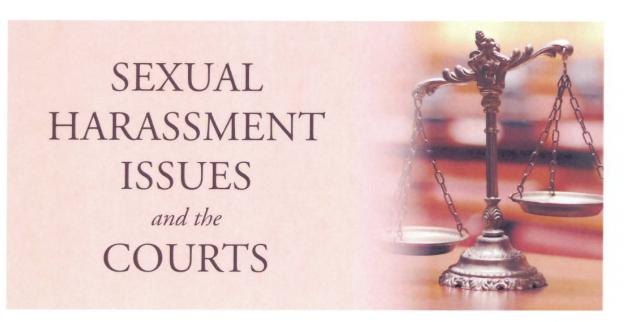
Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects? Bar Associations and Colleges

# GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE MEMBER ROSTER Revised 2/23/18

COUNTY	NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
Monroe	Hon. Teresa D. Johnson Chair Supervising Judge, City Courts, 7 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District	Room 6 Hall of Justice, 99 Exchange Blvd. Rochester, New York 14614 Phone (585) 371-3406 Fax (585) 371-3423 email office: tjohnson@nycourts.gov email home: teresadjohnson@mac.com
Monroe	Sara S. Ashcraft, Esq. Family Court Practitioner	150 Allens Creek Rd. Rochester, New York 14618 Phone (585) 442-0540 ext.313 Fax (585) 442-6889 email Sashcraft@afylaw.com
Monroe	Mary Aufleger 7 <sup>th</sup> JD Deputy District Executive	Seventh Judicial District Administration 161 Hall of Justice Rochester, NY 14614 Phone: 585-371-3436 Fax: 585-371-3286 Email: mauflege@nycourts.gov
Monroe	Catherine Cerulli, Esq. Director, SBA Center	Susan B. Anthony Center U of R, RC Box 270435 Rochester, NY 14627-1435 Phone: 585-276-3256 Email: Catherine Cerulli@urmc.rochester.edu
Monroe	Adele Fine, Esq. Assistant Public Defender	10 N. Fitzhugh Street Rochester, NY 14614 Phone: 585-753-4548 Email: afine@monroecounty.gov
Wayne	Christina Herman Chief Clerk, Surrogates Court	Wayne County Hall of Justice 54 Broad Street Lyons, NY 14489 Phone: 315-665-8119 Email: <a href="mailto:cherman@nycourts.gov">cherman@nycourts.gov</a>
Seneca	Susan Maleski Chief Clerk, Supreme & County	Seneca County Courthouse 48 West Williams Street Waterloo, NY 13165-1338 Phone: 315-539-7157 Email: smaleski@nycourts.gov

\* Co- Chairs as of JANUARY 2019

Cayuga	Laurie Michelman	157 Genesee Street
, . 8.	Associate Court Attorney	Auburn City Court
	Auburn City Court	Auburn, NY 13021-3423
	radam only court	Phone: 315-237-6420
		Email: <u>lmichelm@nycourts.gov</u>
		Email: michemiconycourts.gov
Cayuga	Deb Robillard	157 Genesee Street
	Chief Clerk, Auburn City Court	Auburn City Court
		Auburn, NY 13021-3423
		Phone: 315-237-6422
		Email: drobilla@nycourts.gov
Monroe	Sharon Kelly Sayers, Esq.	30 W. Broad St., Ste. 506
	Family Court Practitioner	Rochester, New York 14614
		Phone (585) 454-2320 Fax (585) 454-1612
	2	email: sayers@frontiernet.net
Monroe	Josie M. Sheppard, Esq.	McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP
		920 Bausch & Lomb Place
		Rochester, NY 14604
		Phone: 585-623-4288
	*	Email: <u>Jsheppard@mdmc-law.com</u>
Ontario	Hon. Elisabeth Toole	Geneva City Court
		4067 W. Lake Road, Geneva, NY 14456
		Phone (315) 789-4618 Fax (315) 789-1938
	8	Email: toolelaw@rochester.rr.com
Yates	Carol Winslow	Yates County Family Court
	Chief Clerk, Family Court	415 Liberty Street
	970	Penn Yan, NY 14528
		Phone: (315)536-5126
		Email: <u>cwinslow@nycourts.gov</u>
Monroe	Kelly Wolford, Esq.	Powers & Santola LLP
		693 East Ave.
		Rochester, NY 14607
		Phone: 585-563-3330 Fax:



# **TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018**

Two sessions:

12:00–1:00 p.m. or 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Room 303, Hall of Justice 99 Exchange Blvd. Rochester, NY 14614

# **SPEAKER**

**Kay-Ann Porter Campbell, Esq.**Managing Inspector General for Bias
Matters, Office of Court Administration

Learn about the types of matters handled by the Inspector General, not all of which involve employees.

Learn how to file a complaint and how complaints are handled. Ask questions openly or anonymously. Lunch will be provided at both sessions. Virtual attendance will be offered via Skype (link provided upon RSVP).

# TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2018

12:00-2:00 p.m.

Room 303, Hall of Justice 99 Exchange Blvd. Rochester, NY 14614

# **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Debrief and discuss the guest speaker's lecture, ask questions, share your thoughts, learn how to access resources, and seek guidance on the issue of sexual harassment.

Presented by the Seventh Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee and the University of Rochester Susan B. Anthony Center.

To RSVP, call or email Lynn McLean at (585) 371-3406 or lmclean@nycourts.gov

Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee

Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, Chair

# Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee

Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Chair

#### Members:

Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, Chairperson, Lisa Baehre, Ana Brignoni-Waliczek, Angie Davis-Leverette, Hon. Rosalie Bailey, Hon. Betty Calvo-Torres, Shion Christian, Hon. Sheila DiTullio, Shekuira Feaster, Hon. Paula Feroleto, Shannon Filbert, Grace Hanlon, Esq., Mary Louise Hayden, Esq., Brenda Heath, Esq., Andrew Isenberg, Anna Jochum, Tracy Kassman, Kimberly LoCurto, Hon. Sharon LoVallo, Danielle Maichle, Esq., Suzanne Maxwell Barnes, Tasha Moore, Shawnette Reid, Jose Rodriguez, Hon. Robert Russell Jr., Sheila Weir Schwanekamp, Esq., Lydia Soto, Colleen Wagner, Erika Webb, Sharon Wasielewski

Counties Served: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming

# 2018 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: 2/8/18, 3/8/18, 4/5/18, 4/26/18, 6/22/18, 7/20/18, 9/13/18, 10/25/18, 12/13/18 Average Attendance : 12

Do you use Video Conferencing? Yes

Would it be useful for members to meet through a video conference from their desktop computer?

It would be helpful for some members to meet through video conference but not the entire committee.

# **Activities for Women's History Month 2018**

The Committee celebrated International Women's Day on March 8, 2018 by advancing its theme of #PressforProgress. An email was disseminated throughout the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, as well to members of the various networks that we belong to, which explained the purpose of the day and encouraged others to join the activity.

# **Activities for Women's History Month 2018**



The Committee celebrated International Women's Day on March 8, 2018 by advancing its theme of **#PressforProgress**. An email was disseminated throughout the 8th Judicial District, as well to members of the various networks that we belong to, which explained the purpose of the day and encouraged others to join the activity.

The Committee held it's bi-annual Lamplighter Award plaque inclusion program in recognition of the 2017 recipients of the Women in the Law Award at the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, M. Dolores Denman Courthouse in May 2018. There were approximately 45 people in attendance. The program remarks follow the photo of some of the recipients.

# Plague Program Remarks 2018

Thanks to Justice Whalen for his warm and gracious welcome and remarks, to Administrative Justice Paula Feroleto, who is a member of our committee and stanch supporter of our cause, to Chief Clerk Mark W. Bennett and Lenora Foote-Beavers for their assistance in coordinating the program logistics, and to the entire Gender Racial Fairness Committee, especially the Program Chair, Hon. Rose Bailey, Kim Lo Curto, Sharon Wasielewski, Lydia Soto, Andrew Isenberg and Angie Leverette, who worked hard to organize this event.

We are indeed fortunate to have a Presiding Justice and Administrative Judge at our helm who share our commitment to equal treatment for all in our courts.

We are honored by the presence of the Appellate Division

Judges' who are with us, as well as the honorees, whose efforts have made this program possible.

I am personally pleased and proud to be here in the M. Dolores Denman courthouse. Justice Denman was the first chair of our Committee and a former Presiding Justice of



this Court, which bears her name and where about a third of the Justices are women. The progress of women in the law is certainly visible here in the Appellate Division Fourth Department. Their presence serves to encourage and inspire all of us.

The NYS Judicial Commission on Women in the Courts was formed about thirty years ago in response to a statewide report which found that "Gender bias against women litigants, attorneys and court employees is a pervasive problem with grave consequences." Our Committee is committed to helping to eradicate bias in all forms within the court system.

On a bi-annual basis, our Committee honors pioneering women who, through determination and personal achievement, have assisted in the elimination of gender and/or racial bias in the law. We refer to our awardees as Lamplighters because like lamplighters of long ago, they go first and light the way for others. Not only do they lead, but the hold the door open so others may follow the path they blazed.

We are gathered here this afternoon to add the names of the 2017 Lamplighter Awardees to our plaque that contains the names of our prior awardees, all of who have used the power of the law to work for equal justice, equal treatment and equal opportunity. I would be remiss if I did not recognize the women present today who are previous recipients. Please join me in giving them a round of applause.

It is very fitting that we gather in the Justice M. Dolores Denman Courthouse because Justice Denman was our first award recipient and our plaque is named in her honor.

At this time the Hon. Rose Bailey, the former Chair of our Committee and member of the NYS Commission on Women in the Courts, will read aloud the names of the 2017 recipients of the Women in the Law Award.

Our honorees today hail from all the counties in the Eighth Judicial District and each is outstanding in her field. There isn't enough time to list all their accomplishments, so today I'll highlight just a few of the reasons they were selected.

Paula DaBella: Chief Clerk Paula DaBella retired in 2017 after eighteen years in Batavia City Court in Genesee County. She left behind her a legacy of commitment to equality for all in the court and a commitment to making our courts more open and accessible to all who enter. We are pleased to add her name today.

Supreme Court Justice Deborah Haendiges has presided

over the Erie County Integrated Domestic Violence Court for over twelve years as well as the Felony Domestic Violence Court. She is admired not only for her legal acumen, but for the grace and respectful manner with which she leads her courtroom. She has lectured on domestic violence matters across our state, and also across the nation and in international forums. She is a true lamplighter.

Dione Harrington is (check this - is she still there?) Orleans County Director of Child and Family Services. For over twenty years she has worked to better the lives of vulnerable children and seniors in her county. She's been Supervisor of Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, and also Domestic Violence Services. She's worked with the Orleans County Drug Court, Family Treatment Court and the diversion team since its inception. Adding her name today recognizes the positive impact she has had on countless lives.

Attorney Teresa Kowalczyk has been representing children in Wyoming County for over 37 years. She says that from day one, her first clients were kids and that over the years she has represented thousands of children in Family Court. She has been in this courthouse before when she received the Michael F. Dillon Law Guardian Award for her compassionate and professional representation. We recognize her for her outstanding work giving children a voice in the courtroom.

Attorney Patricia McGrath is former (present?) President of the Niagara County Bar Association. She has served as supervising attorney for the Family Unit and the Niagara Falls office of Neighborhood Legal Services. She has been an active tutor for Lawyers for Learning and volunteers for numerous charities. She leads by example which makes her a very fitting recipient of today's recognition.

Attorney Sheila Weir Schwanekamp: No list of Lamplighters in the Eighth Judicial District would be complete without the name of Sheila Weir Schwanekamp. Throughout her career in the Courts she has championed the cause of equality. She's been a member of this committee since its inception over thirty years ago.

She has been assigned to the Integrated Domestic Violence Courts and has served as coordinator of domestic Violence projects and issues in the 8th Judicial District. She's been involved with the state parent Education Advisory Board and has been Matrimonial ADR program coordinator. She's presented at numerous DV forums and was on the planning team to develop the Erie County Family Justice Center and has organized annual domestic violence programs She is a founding member of the OCA Anti-Discrimination Panel. We

are proud to recognize all that Sheila Weir Schwanekamp has done as a lamplighter to open doors to justice.

Chautauqua Attorney Janice D. Slaton left this world in 2011. Her legacy was one of good works and a community changed for the better. A former Assistant District Attorney, she chose to work in the Public Defender's Office because she believed that was where she would have more of an impact. She gave her clients legal advice, spiritual advice and financial assistance. She was known to personally purchase food and clothing for them and to help with housing costs. Needy clients occasionally would turn up at her home and she never turned them away. Ms. Slaton lives on through her good works and we are proud to add her name today.

Attorney Carmen L. Snell is Assistant General Counsel for Blue Cross Blue Shield of WNY. A former Assistant New York State Attorney General, she handles a broad range of legal issues, including managing litigation, negotiating contracts and representing Blue Cross Blue Shield in employee matters. Her colleagues elected her to serve on the national Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Legal Executive Committee. She has also served as president of the Niagara Frontier Corporate Counsel Association and as president of the Minority Bar Association of Western New York. As she has advanced her own career, she always has reached out to help others advance. Today we recognize her accomplishments and her leadership.

Judge Margaret Szczur is presently serving her third tenyear term in Erie County Family Court. She handles the toughest most heart-rending cases involving the abuse and neglect of children. She has also presided over the Juvenile Treatment Court helping to mend families and to help them surmount very difficult problems.

She is a former president of the State Family Court Judg-

es Association and her dedication has been recognized by many groups including the Women Lawyers of WNY which named her Woman Lawyer of the Year. As a lamplighter, she leads children and families to a better future.

Ana Brignoni-Waliczek is Principal Court Interpreter for the Eighth Judicial District. As our community embraces new neighbors arriving from across the globe, qualified interpreters are critical to ensure that every voice can be heard and understood in the courtroom. Ms. Brignoni-Waliczek's plays a critical role in helping our immigrant community have equal access to justice. She helps train and guide other interpreters, investigates complaints and reviews court transcripts and recordings. She has served as a liaison between the court and community agencies and has worked to develop a training curriculum on ethics and professionalism. Ana has brought light and understanding to hundreds of people new to our community who have entered our courthouses feeling fearful and isolated because of language barriers. We are proud to add her name today.

Attorney Jennifer Widger has been a confidential law clerk in the Unified Court System in Cattaraugus County for over seventeen years. She is a past president of the Cattaraugus County Bar Association and has donated her time and talents to the Ellicottville Rotary Club and a Salamanca credit union. She mentored one girl in Little Valley and has sponsored a Kenyan orphan girl for over ten years. She is committed to the advancement of women attorneys and organized informal meetings of the Catt County Women's Bar Association. She has had a profound influence on women and girls from Cattaraugus County to Africa. It is an honor to recognize her.

Although today's program has now come to a conclusion, our commitment to equality and fair treatment will always continue. Thanks to each of you for being here today.

# **Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2018**

Four Lunch and Learn programs were presented in collaboration with other organizations in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness. On October 15, 2018 the Committee co-sponsored a program with the Western New York Pride Center, the Niagara County Bar Association and the Niagara County Integrated Domestic Violence Court on how knowledge of the diverse composition of rainbow communities is essential for understanding the complexities of domestic violence within the LBGTQ+ populations.

On October 24, 2018 the Committee partnered with Child and Family Services to present a "Train the Trainer Program" for all victim service agencies in the 8th judicial district. The program, which addressed parenting after violence, was developed to provide information to victims of domestic violence about the impact of domestic violence on their children.

On October 30, 2018 the Committee sponsored a program on domestic violence in sports which provided information from a sports expert about policies and practices relating to sexual harassment and domestic violence in sports.

On Nov. 8, 2018 the Committee collaborated with the Erie County Integrated Domestic Violence and City of Buffalo Domestic Violence Courts to present an over view of the Parenting After Violence Program which was developed on behalf of those Courts in order to allow domestic violence victims to make more informed choices involving their children. All programs were well publicized and well attended. Program flyers are attached.

# Other Special Events or Activities

On Friday February 23, 2018, the Committee jointed the Eighth Judicial District's Diversity Steering Committee to present an engaging presentation that was open to all employees and the public program in recognition of Black history month entitled "The Road to Freedom". The guest speaker was a Historian and Retired Buffalo Public School Teacher named Mrs. Eva M. Doyle. Musical entertainment was provided by Daughters of Creative Sound; a local singing group.

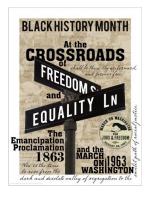








Committee members participated in the Buffalo City Court Ethnic luncheon where Court personnel prepared various ethnic dishes and shared their cultural significance with the approximate 75 people in attendance. This was our way of celebrating our diversity and sharing our cultural backgrounds.





# Lunch & Learn Program: Let's Talk About It #METOO.

On May 7, 2018, the Eights Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee held a Lunch and Learn presentation on bias with an emphasis on sexual harassment in the Courts. The guest speaker was Kay Ann Porter-Campbell, Esq., Managing Inspector General for Bias Matters. The program title was "Let's talk about #Me Too"

Ms. Porter-Campbell explained the types of matters handled by the New York Inspector General's office including how to file a complaint and the steps taken once a complaint had been filed. She spoke about previous incidents investigated by her office that occurred within courthouses in New York State or at court sponsored events. She emphasizes that managers and Judges are mandated to report incidents of sexual harassment.

In addition, the UCS policy on sexual harassment and memo from Judges Coccoma and Silver was disseminated to all employees in the 8th JD. Judge Coccoma's statement that conduct based on race, color, national origin, religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression will not be tolerated was reiterated.









# **Careers Not Jobs Program**

Gender and Racial Fairness Committee members participated in the 8th Judicial District's first "Careers Not Jobs: Side walk conversations" program on August 15, 2018. This event was designed to educate the public about positions within the Courts. Committee members had the opportunity to meet and interact with over one hundred and fifty (150) individuals from the community and surroundings areas regarding positions within the Courts and how to access those positions.









# **Activities for Hispanic Heritage Month 2018**

The Committee acknowledged Hispanic Heritage Month with an article in the "Docket" featuring Committee member – Judge Betty Calvo Torres, the only Hispanic judge in the Eighth Judicial District.

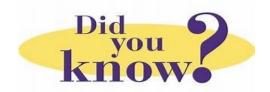












Finally, the Committee was able to have signs placed on all single stall bathrooms in the Buffalo City Court designating that they are for handicap and gender-neutral use. The article "Did you know" was Emailed to all court employees in the 8th JD informing them about the location of the bathrooms

# 8th JD Courts Single Occupant Restroom

County	Courts	Gender Neutral Restrooms
Allegany	Supreme/County COJ	Second floor jury room has a gender-neutral bathroom for jurors located in secure hallway. Single occupancy restroom located in Courtroom 317 with gender neutral signage.
Cattaraugus	Supreme/County COJ Surrogate	Single occupancy restrooms located on the 2nd floor with signage indicating use for Male and Female respectively and both are wheelchair accessible. They are located to the right as you exit the elevator. On the third floor, there is a single occupancy Men's restroom and there is no handicap accessible signage.
	Family	One Single occupancy bathroom 1st floor near Department of Social Services. Another single-occupancy bathroom is located on the 2nd floor.
Chautauqua	Supreme/County COJ Surrogate	Gender neutral bathroom is located on the 2nd Floor Gerace Annex. (This is the one closest to the Surrogate's Court).  There is a single occupant bathroom in the lobby of the Supreme/County Court house.
Erie	92 Franklin Street	Gender neutral bathroom is located on the 2nd Floor next to the ceremonial courtroom.
	77 W. Eagle	Single occupant bathroom located on 1st Floor wheel chair accessible with signage
	Supreme/County Court Reporters COJ	Single occupant bathroom located on 5th Floor (male/handicap signage).  Main Floor- Single occupant bathroom by jury room selection counter (Staff Use -Available with Permission).
	Buffalo City	Gender Neutral bathrooms located off the hallways on the following floors: 1st, 2nd, and 6th floors. A wheelchair can fit.
Genesee	Supreme/County, Family Surrogate, COJ	Single occupant bathrooms are located in the General Assembly Grand Jury room on the first floor.
Orleans	Supreme/County Family Surrogate COJ	Two Single Occupant bathrooms on the first floor near the coatrack designate for the use of females and males respectively.





# **Human Trafficking Symposium in WNY**



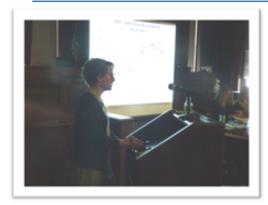
Nearly 150 attorneys, judges and interested citizens crowded into the Ceremonial Courtroom in the Erie County Court House on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 for a 3 kr presentation on human trafficking in Western New York.

The program, sponsored by the Gender Racial Fairness Committee and organized with Amy C. Martoche, presiding Judge of the Buffalo City Human Trafficking Intervention HUB Court, explored the problem, analyzed the law And the dynamics for the victims/survivors of human trafficking in WNY.

Judge Martoche told the audience that 96 percent of the individuals she has seen in her court since the since the Human Trafficking Court opened in October 2013 were native -born Americans, dispelling the myth that human trafficking mainly impacts easily -exploitable aliens and immigrants. Additionally, she said that the percentage of opiate -addicted victims has risen dramatically, increasing from fewer than 50 percent in 2014 to 75 percent now. Judge Martoche said that sometimes a young person is hooked on heroin by the person who intends to traffic her or him, and other times it is the addiction that leads the individual, usually female, to the trafficker in the first place.

Several panels of experts, including prosecutors and defense attorneys, physicians, law enforcement officials and advocates, presented throughout the afternoon.

Judge Martoche's court is one of 11 Human Trafficking Intervention Courts established statewide to help ensure that perpetrators are held accountable and victims/ survivors receive the help they need. See http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/problemsolving/htc/index.shtml for more information.





# Volunteering

Buffalo's harsh weather is well known to all. The 8th Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee members collected and distributed hats and mittens to the children visiting the Sharon A. Thomas Children's Center in Buffalo City Court on December 13, 2018, to help keep "our" children warm and cozy throughout the winter.







# Lactation room renovations

The newly renovated lactation rooms were made available in 2018.







# **Understanding Chanukah**



I was recently asked by the Eighth Judicial District Diversity Steering Committee and Hon. E. Jeannette Ogden, as Chair of the Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee, to write a brief Docket Article about the Jewish holiday of Chanukah. I would like to extend my appreciation to both committees for allowing me to share background about a very meaningful holiday for me personally and the Jewish community.

Chanukah is the Jewish eight-day, wintertime "festival of lights," celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting, special prayers and fried foods. The Hebrew word "Chanukah" means "dedication," and is named because it celebrates the rededication of the Jewish Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Many Jewish people consider Chanukah to be a minor holiday. Others consider Chanukah to be one of the most important holidays in the Jewish tradition.

To understand the story of Chanukah, it is first important to be aware of some of the history of the Jewish Temple. It was originally built by King Solomon in Jerusalem on the Temple Mount which is currently the site of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Western Wall. According to Jewish tradition, the Temple Mount is the site of Mount Moriah where Abraham offered his son Isaac for sacrifice to God as told in the Old Testament book of Genesis. The Jewish Temple was ultimately destroyed by the Romans in the year 70 C.E. during the siege of Jerusalem.

Within the Jewish Temple there was a golden Menorah (seven-branched candelabrum). The Menorah was constructed by Moses and the Jewish People as they wandered the desert and later permanently placed in the Jewish Temple. It was kept lit daily with pure olive oil.

The story of Chanukah occurs in the second century BCE. At that time Israel was ruled by the Seleucids (Syrian-Greeks), who tried to force the people of Israel to accept Greek culture and beliefs instead of Jewish observances and belief in one God. Against all odds, a small band of faithful but poorly armed Jews, led by Judah the Maccabee, rebelled and defeated the Syrian-Greeks. Ultimately, they reclaimed the Jewish Temple which had been desecrated by the Syrian-Greeks.

Judah the Maccabee and his followers rededicated the Jewish Temple to the service of God. When they sought to light the Menorah, they found only a single cruse of pure olive oil that had escaped contamination by the Syrian-Greeks. Miraculously, they lit the Menorah and the one-day supply of oil lasted for eight days, until new oil could be prepared under conditions of ritual purity.

Rather than celebrating a conquest over the Syrian-Greeks, it is the rededication of the Jewish Temple and the miracle of the continuous light of the Menorah lasting for eight days on one-day supply of pure olive oil that forms the basis for the festival of Chanukah.

Today, at the heart of the observance of Chanukah is the nightly menorah lighting. The menorah holds nine flames, one of which is the shamash ("attendant"), which is used to kindle the other eight lights. On the first night, the Jewish people light just one flame. On the second night, an additional flame is lit. By the eighth night of Chanukah, all eight lights are kindled. For Jews around the world, the menorah is publicly displayed in a doorway or window. Special blessings are recited, often to a traditional melody, before the menorah is lit, and traditional songs are sung afterward.

Since the Chanukah miracle involved oil, it is customary to eat foods fried in oil. The Eastern-European classic is the potato latke (pancake) garnished with applesauce or sour cream, and the Middle Eastern Israeli favorite is the jelly-filled sufganya (fried jelly doughnut). The exchange of gifts is not a part of Chanukah observances. The history of an exchange of gifts is much more a result of today's consumer driven society and Chanukah's close proximity to Christmas, a holiday which is not observed by the Jewish people. Contrary to popular belief, there is no such thing as a "Chanukah bush" or a Christmas tree in Jewish households that are any part of this observance.

Our Rabbis teach us that when the Chanukah candles are lit, we should spend time in close proximity to them so that "We [can] listen carefully to what the candles are saying." So what are the flickering flames telling us? For me, here are some messages:

- a. Never be afraid to stand up for what's right. Judah the Maccabee and his band faced daunting odds, but that didn't stop them from doing that which they believed to be just and right.
- b. Always increase in matters of goodness. One flame can kindle your beliefs and values but an increasing number of flames each night encourages us to strive to be even better.
- c. A little light goes a long way. The Chanukah candles are lit when dusk is falling. Perched in the doorway, they serve as a beacon in the darkness of night. No matter how dark it is outside, a candle of goodness can transform the darkness itself into light.
- d. Strive to shine outwards. Chanukah teaches us to shine outwards into our surroundings with acts of compassion and kindness.

As we begin a new 2019, may we all rededicate ourselves to seek wisdom from wherever a little light is brought into our lives. Thank you again for allowing me to share an important personal event in my yearly cycle of life in the Courts.

How were your special events advertised or marketed? E-mail, flyers, media press releases, internet.

Was there any press before or after? There was press coverage for all the programs and events.

# **Future Plans**

What are your plans for 2019?

We will continue to examine access to justice and equality issues faced by women, minorities, immigrants, adolescents and members of the LBGTQ community. We plan to have Lunch and Learn programs on autism, mental illness and its impact on women, disseminate # Balance for Better in recognition of International Women's Day, hold our bi-annual Women in the Law Luncheon, host a program for Women's History Month using the theme "Visionary Women Champions of Peace and Non-Violence", host our annual Pride Program and a presentation showing the films "A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness" and "Justice is a Black Woman", the life of Justice Constance Baker Motely for High school students.

We also plan to feature a section in the "Docket" (the district electronic newsletter) entitled "Did you know" and include tips on issues relevant to the Committee's mission.

What is your projected meeting schedule for 2019? We plan to meet at least 6 times during the year.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019?

- · Adverse impact of mental health on litigants generally and women in particular.
- Greater inclusion of minorities and women in decision making positions.
- Restoring faith in the legal system generally, particularly in the criminal justice system.
- Affording opportunities for civil legal services for indigent women and minorities.
- Ensuring human treatment of juveniles accused of offenses. We would like to see the discontinuation of the use of shackles and hand cuffs on juvenile delinquents and juvenile offenders under the age of 10 years old.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women?

Yes. We see the lack of child care centers and supervised visitation areas as issues that adversely affect women interacting with the court system.

Do you see unmet training needs?

We realize that existing training program requirements may not be met due to a shortage of resources.

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse?

Programs addressing

- Appropriate interactions with women and children living with a mental disease or disability and opioid use.
- Understanding autism and its impact on litigants and court employees.
- · Implicit bias and its impact on litigants within the legal system generally and the court system in particular.
- Adolescent females caught in the school to prison pipeline and how perceptions of stakeholders in the juvenile and criminal justice system can be changed.
- Training in the area of cultural competence for court staff.

Collaboration with groups and organizations involved in the foregoing in order not to reinvent the wheel.

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs and projects? Bar Association of Erie County Minority Bar Association of Western New York Cattaraugus Bar Association Women Lawyers of Western NY Women's Bar Association of WNY State University of New York at Buffalo Law School NYS Association of Women Judges International Institute State University of New York at Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center Puerto Rican and Hispanic Day Parade Committee of WNY Richard C. Failla LBGTQ Commission Child & Family Services

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH PROGRAM FLYERS:



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND

The NYS Judicial Commission on Women in the Courts 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Gender & Racial Fairness Committee

&

The Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission

INVITE YOU TO

## LUNCH & LEARN AT THE 2018 PRIDE PROGRAM

#### "CULTURAL COMPETENCY IN THE COURTS"

#### **LEARN**

the definition of terms, use of appropriate language, deconstruction of stereotypes and basic concerns of members of the LBGTQ Community as we strive to respond appropriately within our professional rolls to develop tolerance, improve communication and create a productive environment for those seeking access to justice in the courts, from our guest speaker:

#### RACHEL PARRINO

Engagement & Education Specialist, Pride Center of WNY

or

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2018 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm SURROGATE COURTROOM, 92 FRANKLIN ST., BUFFALO, NY.

LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

#### ALL ARE WELCOME

# The NYS Judicial Commission on Women in the Courts 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Gender & Racial Fairness Committee Niagara County Integrated Domestic Violence Court Niagara County Bar Association

æ

The Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission

invite you to our

#### LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM

in recognition of

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

#### LEARN

how knowledge of the diverse composition of rainbow communities is essential for understanding the complexities of Domestic Violence within the LGBTQ+ populations, from

#### RACHEL PARRINO

Pride Center of WNY's Engagement & Education Specialist

and enjoy complementary light

#### LUNCH

on

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018 from 12:15 - 1:45 pm

NIAGARA FALLS CITY COURT JURY SELECTION ROOM, 1925 MAIN STREET, NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.

1 HOUR OF CLE CREDIT on *Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias* as required by 22 NYCRR § 1500.22 (a) will be awarded to Attorneys.



The 8th Judicial District Gender & Racial Fairness Committee

INVITE YOU TO OUR

#### LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM

ON THE TOP IC OF

#### "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SPORTS"

Guest Speaker:

#### Professor Helen "Nellie" Drew

University at Buffalo School of Law

Helen A. "Nellie" Drew is an expert in sports law. She can comment on professional and amateur sports issues ranging from NCAA compliance and Title IX matters to facility construction, discipline of professional athletes, collective bargaining and franchise issues.

Prof. Drew teaches a variety of courses that incorporate topics such as drug testing in professional sports and professional player contract negotiation and arbitration. Drew is especially interested in the evolving research and litigation concerning concussions in both amateur and professional sports.

On

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2018 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm SURROGATE COURTROOM, 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR, 92 FRANKLIN STREET, BUFFALO, NY 14202

LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

### **ALL ARE WELCOME**

## THE $8^{\text{TH}}$ JUDICIAL DISTRICT GENDER & RACIAL FAIRNESS COMMITTEE THE $8^{\text{TH}}$ JUDICIAL DISTRICT DIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE

#### PRESENTS:

"One Endless Voice to Enhance our Traditions"



CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM CEREMONIAL COURTROOM

92 FRANKLIN STREET BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202

SPECIAL THANKS TO:



## The NYS Committee on Women in the Courts: 8<sup>th</sup> JD Gender Racial Fairness Committee

presents

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SPORTS

LEARN FROM A SPORTS EXPERT ABOUT POLICES AND PRACTICES
RELATING TO
SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SPORTS

### HELEN A. "NELLIE" DREW

Sports Expert and UB Law School Professor

at our

### **LUNCH & LEARN PROGRAM**

October 30, 2018 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Surrogate Courtroom 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 92 Franklin Street Buffalo, NY 14202

Light lunch will be served.

## The NYS Committee on Women in the Courts:

## 8<sup>th</sup> JD Gender Racial Fairness Committee

presents

LET'S TALK ABOUT

## #ME TOO

COME ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE DISCUSSION

LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO

From

Kay Ann Porter-Campbell, Esq. Managing Inspector General for Bias Matters

at our

#### **LUNCH & LEARN PROGRAM**

May 7, 2018 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Ceremonial Courtroom 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 92 Franklin Street Buffalo, NY 14202

Light lunch will be served.

# Human Trafficking in Western New York

Program co-sponsored by the Eighth Judicial District Gender and Racial Fairness Committee, Erie Institute of Law, Minority Bar Association of WNY, NYSBA Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, UB School of Law and Women's Bar Association of the State of NY - WNY Chapter

Tuesday, June 26, 2018













## ERIE INSTITUTE OF LAW

## NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE GENDER FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS

Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair

#### Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts

Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Supreme Court Justice, Chair

Members: See attached list.

Counties served: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester

#### 2018 Meetings

Meeting Dates: 3/14/18, 6/20/18, 10/3/18, and 12/3/18

Average Attendance: 20

Do you use Videoconferencing? No

#### 2018 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month

The Committee again sponsored its annual essay contest open to all high school students in the Ninth Judicial District. The essay contest topic was: "A local public university has an irrevocable clause in its charter requiring same sex dormitories (one all-male dormitory and one all-female dormitory). Two university students, Emily and Jacob, who identified as female and male, respectively, when they were admitted to the school, are now in the process of transitioning to the gender which reflects who they are. Each student has submitted an application to the school's administration stating that they would like to reside in the dormitory of the gender they identify with. Argue for or against the university granting Emily and Jacob's request for their desired dormitory." The Committee hosted a breakfast in the Westchester County Courthouse on May 11, 2018 to celebrate the winners of the 2018 annual Women's History Month essay contest.

#### Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Committee co-sponsored a CLE program with The Pace Women's Justice Center and The Westchester Women's Bar Association, titled "Perspectives on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace in the Wake of #MeToo"

Other Special Events or Activities

The Committee co-sponsored a second CLE program with The Pace Women's Justice Center and The Westchester Women's Bar Association, titled "Exploring and Understanding Cultural Competency in the Law"

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email, Mail, and Flyer

Who and how many attended? Judges, attorneys, public officials, bar association officers, school personnel and family members of the contest winners were in attendance at the 2018 annual essay contest breakfast - approximately 50 in all. The CLE programs were also attended by 30-40 judges and local attorneys.

Was there any press before or after? Yes

#### **Future Plans**

Meetings dates for planned or projected events for 2019: March 2019, June 2019, September 2019, and December 2019

Special Events & Educational Programs

The Committee will again host its annual essay contest to celebrate Women's History Awareness Month in 2019.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019?

Pro-bono representation in matrimonial disputes.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women?

Breastfeeding Space: There is only one dedicated breastfeeding space for employees in the Westchester County Courthouse and it is not easily or always accessible. Language access/interpreters: availability, quality, or general usage of interpreters, both within and outside of the courtroom.

Do you see unmet training needs? Yes. Judicial education refresher trainings and trainings for new law clerks.

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 - 2:00 in the courthouse?

Recent developments in foreclosure law and uncontested matrimonial cases.

#### Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects? Bar Associations, Pace Law School, and Colleges

Karen T. Beltran, Esq.	Kim Berg, Esq.	Natanya L. Briendel, Esq.
Assistant County Attorney	Founding Partner	Ret. Director, Westchester Division
Westchester County Law Department	Gould & Berg, LLP	Pace Women's Justice Center
Gary Brown, Esq. Assistan Attorney General-in-Charge New York State Dept of Law	Professor Jay Carlisle Pace Law School	Robin D. Carton, Esq. Partner Carton & Rosoff PC
Karen Cheeks Lomax, Esq. Executive Director My Sister's Place	Hon. Jeffrey Cohen Appellate Division, 2nd Dept.	Margaret I. Corchado, Esq. Assistant County Attorney Westchester County Law Department
Rev. Doris K. Dalton	Hon. Kathie Davidson	Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Esq.
Chair	Administrative Judge	Chief Deputy County Attorney
County Human Rights Commission	Ninth Judicial District	Westchester County Attorney's Office
Lisa Boslow Dorman, Esq. Principal Law Clerk Chambers of Hon. John P. Colangelo, J.S.C.	Jerrice Duckette-Epps, Esq. Deputy Director Human Rights Commission	Jody Fay, Esq. Managing Vice President & Chief Counsel The Kelsey Company
Dolores Gebhardt, Esq.	Claire Gutekunst, Esq.	Jacqueline Hattar, Esq.
Partner	Executive Director	Partner
McCarthy, Fingar, LLP	Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert	Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP
Hon. Allen Hochberg	Pamela Howad, Esq.	Maria Imperial, Esq.
Ret. Support Magistrate	Managing Attorney	CEO
Westchester County Family Court	My Sister's Place	YWCA White Plains
Hon. Linda Jamieson	Cindy Kanusher, Esq.	Julie Kattan, Esq.
Justice of the Supreme Court	Executive Director	Sole Practicioner
Ninth Judicial District	Pace Women's Justice Center	New Rochelle, NY
Susan W. Kaufman, Esq.	Mary Kelly, Esq.	Milton Kreppel, Esq.
Matrimonial Practice Advisory and Rules Committee	Founding Member	Sole Practicioner
NYS Unified Court System	Kelly & Knaplund	New Rochelle, NY
Beth Levy, Esq.	Hon. Tracy C. Mackenzie	Keary Neary, Esq.
Senior Association Counsel	Family Court Judge	Assistant District Attorney
My Sister's Place	Dutchess County Family Court	Westchester County District Attorney's Office
Karen R. Needleman, Esq.	John Nonna, Esq.	Christopher J. Peticca, Esq.
Chief Adminstrator for the Assigned Counsel Plan	County Attorney	Assistant Law Clerk
of Westchester County at the Legal Aid Society	Westchester County	Chambers of Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, J.S.C.
Laura J. Puhala, Esq. Brown, Gaujean, Kraus & Sastow, PLLC	Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman Justice of the Supreme Court Ninth Judicial District	Jill Sandford, Esq. Vice President and General Counsel FirstLight Fiber
Robi Schlaff, Esq. Director Westchester Office for Women	Hon. Thomas H. Scuccimarra Ret. Judge, NYS Court of Claims	Joanne Sirotkin, Esq. Attorney-in-Charge Legal Services of the Hudson Valley
Hon. Mary Smith Justice of the Supreme Court Ninth Judicial District	Hon. Christine Sproat Ret. Justice of the Supreme Court Ninth Judicial District	Hon. John W. Sweeny, Jr. Appellate Division, 1st Dept.
Nicholas M. Ward-Willis, Esq.	Hon. Barry E. Warhit	Charlotte Watson
Principal Member	Justice of the Supreme Court	Special Projects Coordinator
Keane & Beane P.C.	Ninth Judicial District	Unified Court System
Hon. Charles David Wood Justice of the Supreme Court Ninth Judicial District	Amanda Zane, Esq. Supervising Attorney, Legal Helpline and Services Pace Women's Justice Center	

#### The Pace Women's Justice Center, The Westchester Women's Bar Association and The Ninth Judicial District Committee to Protect Gender Fairness in the Courts

#### Are pleased to host a Continuing Legal Education Program:

#### Exploring and Understanding Cultural Competency in the Law

Cultural competence requires an understanding of the core needs of your clients. Today's society is composed of a wide variety of people from different backgrounds. Effective representation includes not only knowledge of the substantive issues presented in a case but also the ability to communicate clearly with clients. This program will provide the audience with an overview of how to best communicate with clients of varied backgrounds and recommendations for attorneys' best practices.

Speaker:

Samantha Howell, Esq., Executive Director, National Association of Social

Workers - New York State Division

Date:

October 29, 2018

Time:

5:30 to 6:00 PM — Registration 6:00 to 8:00 PM — Program

A light dinner will be provided

Place:

Tudor Room, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University

Charge:

\$30 for WWBA members

\$40 for non-members

\$50 for members and non-members at the door

FREE for members of the Pace Women's Justice Center Moderate Means Panel

**CLE Credits:** 

2 credit hours in professional practice\*

**RSVP:** 

October 20, 2018 online at <a href="www.wwbany.org">www.wwbany.org</a>
Or email executivedirector@wwbany.org

\*CLE: Pending approval by WBASNY in accordance with the requirements of the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board for 2 credit hours in professional practice as specified, acceptable for transitional credit for established and newly admitted attorneys. The Westchester Woman's Bar Association is a chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. Full and partial scholarships for this program, based on financial needs, are available. Full scholarship for the \$10 CLE certificate charge (maximum of 10 attendees) for this program are available for attorneys at non-profit organizations that provide direct legal service for victims of domestic violence. For information and to apply, please contact WWBA President Kim Berg at kberg@gouldberglaw.com. All requests are confidential. The opinions expressed by any program presenter are the presenter's own and do not reflect the official position of the WWBA or WBASNY.

Not a member? Join today at www.wwbany.org







# THE PACE WOMEN'S JUSTICE CENTER, THE WESTCHESTER WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION and THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE TO PROTECT GENDER FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS

are pleased to host a General Membership Meeting:

## Perspectives on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace in the Wake of #MeToo

Recent stories in the news have given rise to a significant need for attorneys who are experienced in the area of employment law and able to assist employees and advise employers on how to respond to claims of sexual harassment in the workplace. This program will provide the audience with an overview of the federal and state laws governing sexual harassment, recommendations for employees who have been subjected to sexual harassment and discussion of potential claims, and recommendations for employers' best practices for preventing such claims, as well as investigating and responding to claims of sexual harassment in the workplace.

**DATE: March 22, 2018** 

RSVP by: March 20, 2018 online at  $\underline{www.wwbany.org}$  or email executive

director@wwbany.org

PLACE: Tudor Room, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University

TIME: 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm - Registration

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Program - A light dinner will be provided.

SPEAKERS: Presented by the Honorable Lisa Margaret Smith, District Court for the Southern District of New York; the Honorable Linda S. Jamieson, Supreme Court Westchester County; Kim Berg, Esq., Gould & Berg, LLP and Susan M. Corcoran, Esq., Jackson Lewis, P.C.

MODERATOR: Sara Kula, Esq., DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP

CHARGE: \$30 for members \$40 for non-members

FREE for people who join the WWBA at the event.







CLE: Pending approval by WBASNY in accordance with the requirements of the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board for 2 credit hours in professional practice as specified, acceptable for transitional credit for established and newly admitted attorneys. The Westchester Woman's Bar Association is a chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. Full and partial scholarships for this program, based on financial needs, are available. Full scholarship for the \$10 CLE certificate charge (maximum of 10 attendees) for this program are available for attorneys at non-profit organizations that provide direct legal service for victims of domestic violence. For information and to apply, please contact WWBA President Lisa Denig at <a href="mailto:lisadenig@yahoo.com">lisadenig@yahoo.com</a>. All requests are confidential. The opinions expressed by any program presenter are the presenter's own and do not reflect the official position of the WWBA or WBASNY.

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT: Natanya L. Briendel, Esq. at nbriendel@law.pace.edu

Not a member? Join today at www.wwbany.org

**Program Sponsors** 

WWBA Employment Law Committee
WWBA Litigation Committee
DALCO Global Court Reporting Services

## WCBA's Gender Fairness Committee

## **Celebrating Women's History Month**

By Margaret Corchado, Esq.



From left: Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, Hon. Linda S. Jamieson, Valerie Lippin, Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Aniya Matthews, Aidan Hoff, Stephanie Markowitz and County Legislator Catherine Borgia

HE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE TO PROMOTE GENDER FAIRNESS IN THE COURTS recognized the winners of its Annual High School Essay Contest at a breakfast held on May 11, 2018, in celebration of Women's History Month. Supreme Court Justice Terry Jane Ruderman, Chair of the Committee, presented the awards. The generosity of various professional organizations and Bar associations, including the Westchester County Bar Association, enabled the committee to award cash prizes to the students.

#### **Winners Read Their Essays**

In the freshman/sophomore category, Stephanie Markowitz from Briarcliff High School won first prize and Valerie Lippin, from Horace Greeley High School won second prize. In the junior/senior category, Aidan Hoff from Cornwall Central High School won first prize and Aniya Matthews from Hastings High School won second prize.

The students read their essays to the more than 50 assembled guests. Those in attendance included State Supreme Court Justices John P. Colangelo, Lawrence H. Ecker, William J. Giacomo, Linda S. Jamieson, Barry E. Warhit, and Charles D. Wood, and Scarsdale Town Justice Jeffrey

Also in attendance were Ken Jenkins, Deputy County Executive of Westchester County, Catherine Borgia, Westchester County Legislator for District 9, and representatives of various Bar associations including Richard Vecchio, President of the Westchester County Bar Association.

The committee anticipates that this contest and awards breakfast will be held again next year and is hoping for even greater participation in the district.

**Margaret Corchado, Esq.**, is assistant clerk to the Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, New York State Supreme Court Justice.



#### **ESSAY TOPIC**

A local public university has an irrevocable clause in its charter requiring samesex dormitories (one all-male dormitory and one all-female dormitory). Two university students, Emily and Jacob, who identified as female and male, respectively, when they were admitted to the school, are now in the process of transitioning to the gender which reflects who they are.

Each student has submitted an application to the school's administration stating that they would like to reside in the dormitory of the gender they identify with.

Argue for or against the university granting Emily and Jacob's request for their desired dormitory.

Suffolk County Women in the Courts Committee

Hon. Karen Kerr and Laurette D. Mulry, Esq., Chairs

#### Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

Chairs: Hon. Karen Kerr, Supervising Judge of District Court and Laurette D. Mulry, Esq., Attorney in Charge of the Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County, Inc.

Members: Please see attached list.

Counties served: Suffolk

#### 2018 Meetings

Meeting Dates: February 8, 2018; April 19, 2018; June 7, 2018; September 6, 2018;

October 4, 2018; November 1, 2018

Average attendance: 20

Do you use Videoconferencing? Yes

#### 2018 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month

Our Women's History Month program entitled "She Persists: Women Who Have Fought Against all Forms of Discrimination," was held on 3-23-18 at the Cohalan Court Complex. The program recognized two extraordinary young women in our community, MaKenna Homayoon and Melinda Rozea, who embody the spirit of persistence. Both women have experienced struggle, hardship and emotional and social challenges in their lives; their stories were truly inspirational. the event's Honoree was the Honorable Chris Anne Kelley, who epitomizes the value of persistence in overcoming societal boundaries with her experience, commitment and with her perspective. The Committee also honored one of its own, the Honorable Isabel Buse, longtime Women in the Courts member and past President, who retired after thirty years in the court system in Suffolk. The well-attended event began with the Presentation of the Colors by New York State Courts Color Guard, followed by welcoming remarks by District Administrative Judge, the Honorable C. Randall Hinrichs. A presentation by the Hamptones, 4th to 8th grade students from Our Lady of the Hamptons Regional Catholic School, brought musical accompaniment and a youthful presence to the event. It truly was a celebration of our collective past, present and future. The theme of Persistence was further extended to our local youth in a collaborative program with the Girl Scouts that will be discussed separately.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

In recognition of Domestic Violence Month, our Committee sponsored a free Continuing Legal Education program at the Cohalan Courthouse on October 19, 2018. The program, entitled "Strangulation: The Gripping Truth," featured our Co-Chair of the Domestic Violence Subcommittee and Acting County Court Judge, the Honorable Gaetan Lozito, who provided a legal background on recent changes in the law on this topic. Judge Lozito introduced guest speakers, Michael Caplan, Suffolk County Medical Examiner and Michelle Tepper, a nurse from Stony Brook Medical Center, who spoke about the

physiological effects of strangulation and the tell-tale signs of such abuse. The program was well-attended by members of the DA's office, defense bar and judiciary. Domestic violence victim's advocates and agency providers were also in attendance and provided informational flyers and other handouts for the audience. The program was approved for 1.0 hour of CLE credit in Professional Practice by the Judicial Institute.

#### Other Special Events or Activities

Heart Health Awareness: This event was held on February 1, 2018 at Cohalan Court Complex and on February 26, 2018 at Cromarty Court Complex. Blood pressure and simple cholesterol screenings were conducted and information was handed out to the Court community and visitors. New this year was a free yoga class offered at both locations by local teachers. One teacher had just recently lost her mother to a heart-related illness, so her participation was especially meaningful.

Cohalan Children's Center: The Women in the Courts Committee continues its support of the Children's Center at the Cohalan Court Complex. We were delighted to learn this year that the operator of the center, EAC. was awarded the UCS contract which enabled expansion of hours of operation of the Children's Center in District Court to five days a week, 9 to 5 pm. Our committee enthusiastically supported many efforts throughout the year including the "Cohalan Cares for Kids" event in March, a Back-to-School Supplies collection in August, a Bagels and Books event in November, and a Thanksgiving and Christmas drive to benefit families that utilize the Center.

Men's Health Awareness: In June, Prostate Cancer Screening was provided at both Cohalan and Cromarty Court Complex by Integrated Medical Foundation, free of charge and by appointment, for men not previously diagnosed with prostate cancer. In addition, an outreach table was set up for dissemination of free information and literature. The event yielded 34 screenings in Cohalan and 25 screenings in Cromarty, numbers which far exceeded last year's event.

Mental Health Awareness: Our Committee sponsored a free Lunch and Learn program which was open to all court personnel on July 23, 2018 at Cohalan Court Complex. The work/life program focused on how to recognize signs and symptoms of mental health disorders, and was presented by Alice Miller, LCSW-R, Dual Recovery Coordinator at the Suffolk County Department of Health, Division of Community Mental Hygiene.

"What to Expect When You are Expecting a Law Degree": Our Committee created a new program in collaboration with Touro Law School's Women's Bar Association to engage and inspire prospective lawyers and future colleagues. A panel was assembled from our Committee, including members of the bar and bench, to speak with current Touro students about their experiences and perspectives. This mentoring and networking opportunity was well received by the students, and anticipated to be continued in the future.

Girl Scouts Persistence Patch: An extension of the Women's History Month celebration of persistence, this program was created to engage and inspire the youth and future leaders

of our community. Our Women's History Month subcommittee worked with the Suffolk chapter of the Girl Scouts of America to create a "Persistence Patch" for Junior through Ambassador level Girl Scouts. Response by Girl Scout groups was overwhelming, necessitating multiple program dates on September 21, 2018 and November 8, 2018 at Cohalan Court Center. The program featured judges, attorneys, court officers and other female leaders in the court community interacting and speaking to the young participants about their careers. These speakers were also small group moderators for the girls as they learned about how they may achieve success through goal setting and persistence. Over one hundred girl scouts earned their Persistence Patch through this program.

Breast Health Awareness Event: In recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, our Committee once again presented, in conjunction with the Suffolk County Court Officers Benevolent Association, our Annual Breast Health Awareness event. Two programs were conducted: October 9th in Cromarty Court Complex and October 16th in Cohalan Court Complex. Tables were set up in areas of public access in the courts to disseminate printed materials from the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the American Cancer Society. Various give-aways, such as pink ribbons, pink silicone bracelets and pink ribbon pens were disseminated at both locations. Thanks to the support of the Suffolk County Court Officers Benevolent Association, funds were provided to purchase laminated shower cards from the Susan G. Komen Foundation to be handed out. These cards provide instructions on how to conduct a self-exam and are designed to hang from a shower head as a reminder. All printed materials were available in English and Spanish. Volunteers from both the DA's office and the Legal Aid Society helped staff the tables. By the sheer number of people walking around the courthouse adorned with pink ribbon pins, the program could be deemed a great success!

Pink Ribbon Breakfast: In an effort to join with our colleagues of the Suffolk County Women's Bar Association to promote Breast Health Awareness, our committee supported and encouraged members to attend the Pink Ribbon Breakfast on October 30, 2018. A special guest speaker from the Maurer Foundation spoke about Breast Health Education.

Meeting Speaker: On November 1, 2018, at our general Women in the Courts Committee meeting, we hosted a special guest speaker: Ms. Serena Liguori, the Executive Director of New Hour Women and Children of Long Island. This organization assists previously and currently incarcerated women as they try to overcome challenges related to parenting, housing, employment, education and daily life skills. New Hour currently has programs in both Yaphank and Riverhead Jails as well as community-based programs. Ms. Liguori spoke about the work of New Hour and handed out packets and brochures for everyone in attendance.

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email, Flyer, and through the Suffolk County Bar Association and organizations like the Legal Aid Society

Who and how many attended?

The Women's History Month and Domestic Violence programs each had well over one hundred attendees. These attendees included members of the bench and bar, as well as court and supportive agency personnel.

Was there any press before or after? Yes

#### **Future Plans**

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2019: 1/31/19, 3/7/19, 4/4/19, 5/2/19, 6/6/19Special Events & Educational Programs

Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Heart Health Awareness, Mental Health Awareness, Men's Health Awareness, Breast Health Awareness, "What to Expect...." program in conjunction with Touro Law Center, Access to Justice Lunch and Learn, Girl Scouts Persistence Patch program

2/14/19 Heart Health Awareness: On-site medical screenings for glucose/cholesterol/Blood pressure conducted at Cohalan and Cromarty Court Complexes; Yoga Stress Reductions classes

3/22/19 Women's History Month: The program: "Visionary Women of Suffolk County: Champions of Peace and Non-Violence" will focus on leaders in the fight against domestic violence in Suffolk County. Will recognize leaders from various domestic violence victims' advocacy groups, who were pioneers in the fight to help victims. Will feature a Keynote Speaker and Honoree who were and are currently in the trenches to combat domestic violence.

May 2019 Mental Health Awareness

June 18, 2019 Men's Health Awareness: On-site PSA screening for prostate cancer at both Cohalan and Cromarty Courts.

June 2019 Access to Justice: Lunch and Learn program open to judges, attorneys, courts officers and other court personnel which is designed to introduce the Suffolk County Community Legal Help Project and provide information and bring awareness to legal help resources in the community. A newly created Legal Help Resource Guide will also be introduced and disseminated.

#### Concerns

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019?

While much progress has been made regarding women and gender in the courts, we need to continue the dialogue to assure that traditional issues confronting women in the courts continue to be meaningfully addressed. For example, issues pertaining to child care, domestic violence, diversity and inclusion, etc. must persist in our discussions and be top of mind. We also feel that transgender issues are very important and should be addressed in

2019; specifically, sensitivity to gender identity and equal access in public accommodations consistent with a person's gender identity.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Child Care Centers and equal access in public restrooms consistent with gender identity

Do you see unmet training needs?

Yes. Sensitivity to Transgender issues; i.e., use of proper pronouns, implicit bias, etc.; Post-conviction Relief; Sealing motions

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 - 2:00 in the courthouse?

Transgender Sensitivity Training: a Lunch and Learn session to be presented to court officers, attorneys and other court personnel to forge an understanding of issues facing transgender individuals, especially as they interact within the court system.

Post-conviction Relief/Sealing Motions Training: one-hour CLE (1/2 Ethics, 1/2 Skills) to address the need ad provide training to assist individuals who cannot attain professional, vocational and educational licenses due to a prior conviction.

Please share any areas of success during 2018 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the court:

One program that was new for our Committee this past year was the "What to Expect When you are Expecting ...a Law Degree" program that was conducted in conjunction with Touro Law Center and the Touro student chapter of the Woman's Bar Association. This program was a huge success with a panel of Women in the Courts members from bench and bar sharing their experiences and mentoring advice. The students welcomed the opportunity to query the experienced panel and ask advice on a number of different subjects including work/life balance, professional goals and opportunities for women in law. By feedback that we have received from the law student participants, the program was a great success and will be scheduled again this Spring.

#### Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?

Bar Associations, Domestic Violence Organizations, Touro Law School, Suffolk County

Court Officers Association

Join us for this
FREE
program open to
ALL
Court Personnel.

## Lunch & Learn: Signs & Symptoms of Mental Health Disorders

### **REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

Participation is limited to the first 80 registrants!

Sponsored by
The Suffolk
County District
Administrative
Judge's Women
in the Courts
Committee

Light
Lunch to
be
provided.

A work/life program on how to recognize signs and symptoms of mental health disorders

Presented by:
Alice Miller, LCSW-R
Dual Recovery Coordinator
Suffolk County Department of Health
Division of Community Mental Hygiene

Monday, July 23, 2018 12:45 PM - 2:00 PM

Central Jury Room
John P. Cohalan, Jr. Court Complex
Central Islip

#### **REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:**

Email Leslie McLoughlin at <a href="mailto:lmclough@nycourts.gov">lmclough@nycourts.gov</a>

Sponsored by the Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

## Persistence Patch

#### **Attention Girl Scouts!**

Do you want to learn from women leaders about persistence while earning a new patch?

We invite you to join Judges, Attorneys, Court Officers and other female leaders in the legal community and learn how they achieved success through goal setting and persistence.

**September 21, 2018** 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

John P. Cohalan, Jr. Court Complex 400 Carleton Avenue Central Islip, New York 11722



Register No Later Than September 14th!

Participation is limited to the first 60 Juniors through Ambassadors.

Remember to wear your sashes/vests!

## Honorable C. Randall Hinrichs District Administrative Judge of Suffolk County

and

The Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

and

The Suffolk County Court Officers Benevolent Association

present

2018 Annual Breast Health Awareness Event in recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Main Lobby, Criminal Courts Building Arthur M. Cromarty Court Complex Riverhead, New York

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

John P. Cohalan, Jr. Courthouse Second Floor Mezzanine Central Islip, New York



#### Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts Coordinates Breast Cancer Awareness Initiatives

In recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2018, the Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts sponsored its annual courthouse breast cancer alert. At courthouse locations in both Central Islip and Riverhead, Committee volunteers distributed important health information relating to breast cancer detection, education and support services. The events were open to the public and to all court employees. In addition to informational packets, attendees were given promotional items to encourage early detection and awareness. A special thanks is extended to the Suffolk County Court Officers Benevolent Association for contributing vital health literature.



## Join us for this FREE CLE

program open to newly admitted and experienced attorneys.

Participation is limited to the first 80 registrants!

Participants are asked to remain present for the entire program.

Please note partial credit will **not** be awarded.

### Strangulation: The Gripping Truth

Sponsored by The Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

#### **Program Presenters:**

Hon. Gaetan B. Lozito Acting County Court Judge,

Michael Caplan, MD
Suffolk County Office of the Medical Examiner

Michelle Tepper, MS, NP-C Stony Brook Medicine

### Friday, October 19, 2018 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Central Jury Room John P. Cohalan, Jr. Court Complex Central Islip

#### **REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Email Leslie McLoughlin at <a href="mailto:lmclough@nycourts.gov">lmclough@nycourts.gov</a> with your full name, affiliation and whether you are seeking CLE credit.

This program has been approved by the New York State Judicial Institute in accordance with the requirements of the NYS CLE Board for 1.0 credit hour, which can be applied toward the Professional Practice category of CLE Credit.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month Sponsored by the Suffolk County Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

## Persistence Patch

#### **Attention Girl Scouts!**

Do you want to learn from women leaders about persistence while earning a new patch?

We invite you to join Judges, Attorneys, Court Officers and other female leaders in the legal community and learn how they achieved success through goal setting and persistence.

November 8, 2018 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

John P. Cohalan, Jr. Court Complex 400 Carleton Avenue Central Islip, New York 11722



Register No Later Than November 1st!

Participation is limited to the first 60 Juniors through Ambassadors.

Remember to wear your sashes/vests!

Gender Fairness Committee of the Twelfth Judicial District, Supreme Court Committee

Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez and Hon. Josephine Bastone, Chairs

#### **Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District**

Chairs: Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez and Hon. Josephine M. Bastone

Members: The composition of the Committee includes: Judges, Court Attorneys, Court Clerks, Court Officers, Court Reporters, Stenographers, custodial employees, and other personnel from the various courts in the Bronx, as well as the County Clerk's Office, Borough President's Office, Bronx Bar Association, the Bronx District Attorney's Office, The Legal Aid Society, The Bronx Defenders, and social services advocates. See attached stationery which lists all of our members.

Counties served: Bronx

#### 2018 Meetings

Dates of Meetings: 1/25/18, 3/09/18, 9/06/18, 9/18/18, 10/11/18, and various additional

subcommittee dates
Average Attendance: 10

Do you use Videoconferencing? Yes

#### 2018 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month

Due to weather conditions, our annual awards program, originally scheduled for March 21, 2018, was held on April 12, 2018 in room 819 of Bronx Supreme Court, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, N. Y. We gave the Woman of Achievement award to Carrie Goldberg, Esq., Advocate for Victims of Abuse, and to Melissa Salguero, Grammy-Winning Educator. We also presented the EVOLVE award to three promising girls; this award was created to recognize outstanding female high school students who have demonstrated a unique ability to rise above daunting circumstances in their lives or who have demonstrated a combination of great scholarship and volunteerism. In addition, we awarded certificates to nine Women of Distinction, court system employees from each individual court, who have impressed the Committee by their job performance, or because they have overcome odds with supreme grace. Report of event, flyer, and program attached.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

We held our annual Domestic Violence Workplace Education Day program on 10/23/18 in the Bronx Hall of Justice. Yhadira Gonzalez-Taylor, Esq.; D. Antoinette Kirwan; Michelle Falcon; and Arisly Rodriguez spoke on Domestic Violence Through the Eyes of a Child. Report of event and flyer attached.

Other Special Events or Activities

- 1. We held our second LGBTQ event on 6/27/18 (the first having taken place in 2013), and intend to sponsor more such events in the future. See report of event, flyer, program, and press photo, attached.
- 2. Together with the Bronx County Bar Association, we held a Breast Cancer Awareness event on 10/24/18. See attached flyer.

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email, Mail, and Flyer

Who and how many attended?

Approximately 120 people attended the Women's History Month program. Approximately 85 people attended the Breast Cancer Awareness and LGBTQ programs. Approximately 45 people attended the Domestic Violence program.

Was there any press before or after? Yes

#### **Future Plans**

Meetings dates for planned or projected for 2019:

Periodic full committee meetings, with subcommittee meetings as needed.

Special Events & Educational Programs

Women's History Month; Domestic Violence Awareness Month

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019? Continued need for civil behaviour and fair treatment to both women and men.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women?

Language access/interpreters (availability, quality, or general usage of interpreters, both within and outside of the courtroom)

Do you see unmet training needs? Yes, we would embrace any training on sexual harassment at the workplace.

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 - 2:00 in the courthouse?

Committee Chair Hon. Josephine M. Bastone is the MCLE Liaison to the Judicial Institute from the Bronx County Courts. Video-simulcasts of Judicial Institute lectures are offered throughout the year, as well as the occasional live lecture sponsored by the Gender Fairness Committee, The Columbia Society, The Bronx County Bar Association, or by other court personnel. For example, in recent years, MCLE programs have been presented in-house on elder law, sex trafficking, the PACT program, etc. Although we did not sponsor an MCLE program during this report period, we do intend to continue doing so in the future.

#### Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects? The Columbia Society, The Bronx County Bar Association, Women's Alliance of the Bronx Bar Association, and the Women's Bar Association. Also, local business that have supported our event.



#### GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

851 Grand Concourse Bronx, New York 10451 HON. DORIS M. GONZALEZ Administrative Judge

265 East 161st Street Bronx, New York 10451 HON. ROBERT TORRES Administrative Judge

HON. DORIS M. GONZALEZ

Chair

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE Chair

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Laura Bisignano Hon. Marianne Brigantti Yvette Brownridge Carol Brumley-McManus Pat Bruno Shantel Castro Joan A. Clodd Hon. Maryanne Doughtery Darlene Dove- Malavé Michael A. Frishman Michelle Foggie Hon. Wilma Guzman Esther E. Kelly Karen Lebron Hon. Sue Levy Elix R. Madera-Fliegelman Hon. La Tia W. Martin Catherine Mercorella Hon. Shari R. Michels Nancy Neddermeyer Major Ostacio Negron Tracy Pardo Anthony J. Perrotto Hon. Bahaati E. Pitt Matthew Raso Hon. Brenda Rivera Hon. Gayle P. Roberts Gisell Rodriguez Major Jose Rodriguez Hon. Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick Hon. Llinet Rosado Julius Torres

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE Ex-Oficio

Supreme Court
Of the
State of New York

## GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



265 East 161st Street, 934 Bronx, New York 10451

HON. ROBERT TORRES Administrative Judge

HON. DORIS M. GONZALEZ

851 Grand Concourse, 6M12-B Bronx, New York 10451

HON. DORIS M. GONZALEZ Administrative Judge

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE

TO:

HON, DORIS M. GONZALEZ

CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FROM:

JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, ESQ.

CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

CHAIR, WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM

DATE:

**JANUARY 28, 2019** 

RE:

APRIL 12, 2018 PROGRAM

The Gender Fairness Committee of the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District sponsored its annual Women's History Month program on Thursday, April 12, 2018. Held in room 819 of the Bronx County Building, the event had over 100 people in attendance.

This year we gave the Woman of Achievement award to Carrie Goldberg, Esq., Advocate for Victims of Abuse, and to Melissa Salguero, Grammy-Winning Educator. In addition, the EVOLVE award was given to three promising high school girls. Nine hardworking court employees were named Women of Distinction. Chair Josephine M. Bastone made a special presentation to outgoing committee chair and founder Hon. Richard Lee Price.

The program was moderated by sub-committee co-chair Carol Brumley-McManus. Audra Archie-Riddle gave an invocation, which was followed by the National Anthem, sung by Michelle Baez. Deputy Administrative Judge Hon. George J. Silver and Administrative Judge Robert Torres opened the program with welcoming remarks. Floral arrangements were presented to the honorees. Citations and a Women's History Month proclamation were presented. Chair Justice Doris M. Gonzalez gave closing remarks, thanking the members of the committee and our co-sponsors, and inviting the audience to enjoy the lunch prepared by Yankee Tavern.

In addition to chairs Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez and Josephine M. Bastone, and subcommittee co-chair Carol Brumley-McManus, the subcommittee members are Laura Bisignano; Joan A. Clodd; Darlene Dove-Malave; Hon. Wilma Guzman; Esther E. Kelly; Elix R. Madera-Fliegelman; Anthony Perrotta, Esq.; Emily Sanchez, and Hon. Richard

Lee Price. Event co-sponsors included Association of Surrogates & Supreme Court Reporters, The Bronx County Bar Association, Caputo Jewelers, Concourse Village Cleaners, Court Attorneys Association of the City of New York, Loria Awards, New York State Court Officers Association, New York State Supreme Court Officers Association, The Tribune Society, and Yankee Tavern.

Supreme Court Of the State of New York





#### **GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE** For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

265 East 161st Street Bronx, New York 10451

HON, ROBERT TORRES Administrative Judge

Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez

**851 Grand Concourse** Bronx, New York 10451

HON. GEORGE J. SILVER Deputy Chief Administrative Judge

Hon. Josephine Bastone Chair

and

The Bronx Bar Association President - Daniel D. Cassidy, Esq.

Present

## Women's History Month

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018 12:45 TO 2:30 P.M. VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL, BRONX SUPREME COURT 851 Grand Concourse Bronx, New York

#### Women of Achievement

Carrie Goldberg, Esq. Advocate for Victims of Abuse

Melissa Salguero Grammy-winning Educator

&

"Women of Distinction" Certificates will be presented to notable women

&

"E V O L V E" Student Awards

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P. to: Hon. Josephine M. Bastone, Esq. (718)618-1344

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** Laura Bisignano

Sherry Callwood Lisa Carrasquillo **Shantel Castro** Joan Clodd Maria Cortese Hon. Tandra Dawson

Yvette Brownridge **Carol Brumley** 

**Darlene Dove** Monica Dula Sherron Durham Michelle Foggie

Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez Hon. Aurelia Greene Hon. Wilma Guzman Hon. Arlene H. Hahn Esther Kelly

Capt. Holly Kenn Sheryl Konigsberg Beth Krause Cristina Laramee Hon. Sue Levy

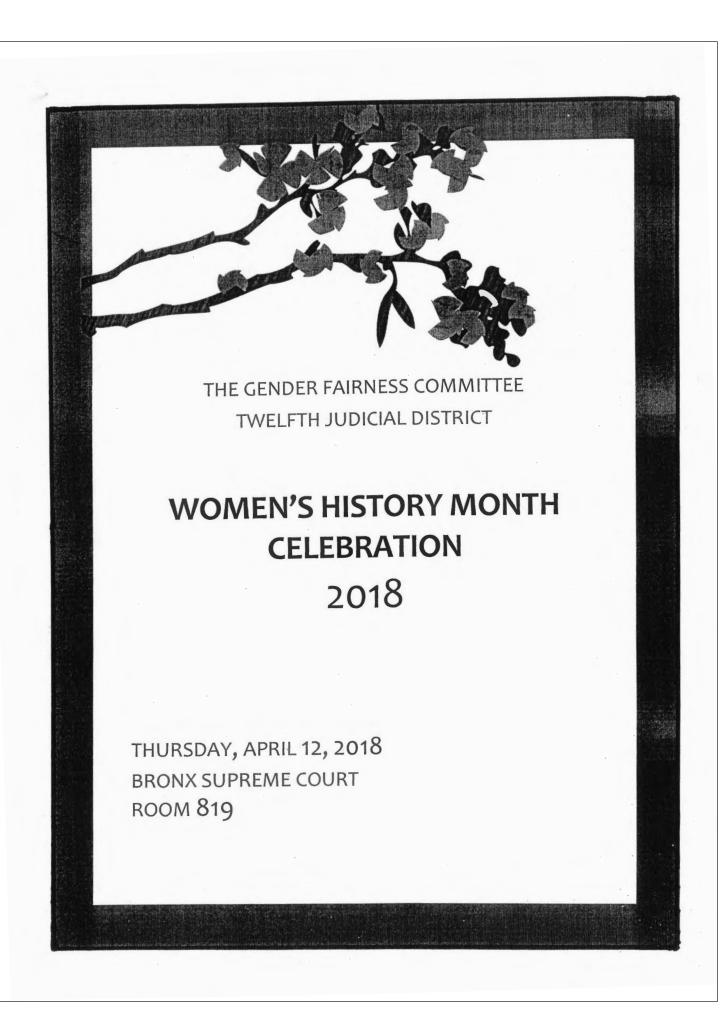
Elix R. Madera-Fliegelman Hon. La Tia W. Martin Marisol Martinez-Alonso

Catherine Mercorella Hon. Shari R. Michels Deidra Moore Major Ostacio Negron

Bernadette O'Rourke Tracy Pardo Anthony J. Perrotto Sandra Prowley Charlene Pulakos Lorraine Ramsey

Hon, Gayle P. Roberts Major Jose Rodriguez Hon. Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick Terri J. Roman

Julius Torres



# WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT HONOREES 2018

Carrie Goldberg, Esq.

Advocate for Victims of Abuse

**Melissa Salguero**Grammy-winning Educator

## Carrie Goldberg, Esq. Advocate for Victims of Abuse

Having built a successful law firm from scratch—and one dedicated entirely to victim's rights—Carrie Goldberg is a new kind of attorney: a powerful young privacy champion who fights back against perpetrators of sexual misconduct. As she puts it, her firm's purpose is to stop "a\*\*holes, psychos, trolls, and pervs" so that her clients—both men and women, as well as high-profile names like Paz de la Huerta and Emma Cline—can live their lives in peace. In her inspirational, practical, and compelling talks, devoid of legalese and brimming with hope, she speaks about the spread of online harassment, sextortion, and consent—and points to solutions within reach, including what each of us can do to protect ourselves and others. Her memoir Fairer Sex: From the Frontlines of Stalking, Sextortion, and Revenge Porn, on how overcoming her own abuser inspired her to open a victims' rights firm that provides cutting-edge legal help, is due in 2018 from Penguin Books.

In her groundbreaking case against Grindr on behalf of her client, Goldberg demonstrates an unflinching commitment to holding tech companies accountable for allowing malicious users to instigate abuse on their platforms. Her firm also collaborated with the FBI on major interstate stings, leading to the arrest of her clients' stalkers, who had executed perverse, relentless, and vicious campaigns that destroyed the lives of innocent people. Furthermore, Goldberg has spent years fighting for underage victims of sexual assault, who have been punished by the NYC schools for reporting their attacks.

Goldberg is actively involved in drafting and advocating for nonconsensual pornography laws on a local, state, and federal level. Her contributions to the 2016 Brookings Institution report on sextortion and the Interstate Sextortion Prevention Act were introduced to Congress by Rep. Katherine Clark and Susan Brooks. She is the recipient of 2017's Privacy Champion Award from Electronic Privacy Information Center for her inspirational commitment to protecting an individual's privacy in an age when, as she stated at the awards ceremony, "everybody online is a publisher, voyeur, and exhibitionist." She was also selected by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star and Top Women Attorney in New York State, and she is on the board of the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative, a non-profit that fights online abuse and discrimination.

#### Melissa Salguero Bio Grammy-winning Educator

Melissa Salguero holds a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from the University of South Florida and a Master of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Bridgeport. Melissa started her teaching career teaching middle school band in South Florida and now has been teaching music at P.S.48 Joseph R. Drake Elementary School in the South Bronx since 2010.

She has built the music program from the ground up and has raised over \$160,000 for her music program. Salguero was honored as the Lincoln Center Arts Teacher of the Year in 2013. In 2014, after P.S. 48 suffered a break-in, Salguero was invited to represent the school on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show." She was named the GRAMMY Music Educator Award Recipient in 2018.

Ms. Salguero combines science and musical concepts by transforming her classroom into a Mad Scientist lab. She plans hands on experiments in her lessons to demonstrate how science and music are related. Her goal is to foster creativity, curiosity and a strong work ethic in her students through the power of music.

Ms. Salguero's classroom is a place where creativity, curiosity, humor, and hard work combine to create a passion for learning. She inspires her students and makes learning music fun, relatable and accessible to all.

"I teach my students to work hard, dream big, and never give up."



### **E.V.O.L.V.E. AWARDEES**

### 2018

Olufemi Brown

Harry S. Truman High School

Mikayla Hernandez

St. Barnabas High School

**Berenice Ortiz-Garcia** 

Harry S. Truman High School

## Olufemi Brown Student

Olufemi is currently a junior at Harry S. Truman High School, in the Bronx, New York. She has a GPA of 92.92 percent, and has obtained honor role status all three years of high school. Olufemi was born in Jamaica and moved to the Unites States in 2011 with her mother. There was little opportunity for them in Jamaica and Olufemi struggled to get an education in her difficult surroundings. Her mother wanted more for her and believed in the opportunities Olufemi could be offered here in the United States. They obtained their green cards and are now working towards citizenship.

Although happy to move here, Olufemi found it difficult to acclimate at first. She was extremely self-conscious of her accent and believed others found it difficult to understand her. She worked hard on her diction and became more and more outgoing and began to give back to the country that has been good to her.

In the 9<sup>th</sup> grade she joined the elite Culinary Academy at Truman High School, the wrestling team, and the JROTC. This meant a full schedule beginning at 7:00 am with no free periods. During this time she volunteered at soup kitchens, the holiday toy drive, and worked to clean up the parks. In 10<sup>th</sup> and now 11<sup>th</sup> grades, she is still in the Culinary Academy, the wrestling team and the after school dance team. She volunteers as a tutor to middle school students. Outside of school she also volunteers at a dental office as an office assistant. She is a strong believer in giving back whenever and wherever possible.

#### Mikayla Hernandez

#### Student

Mikayla Hernandez is a junior at St. Barnabus High School. Mikayla is known for being involved in the school community, being successful in difficult classes and maintaining a positive attitude. Mikayla suffered the tragic loss of her older brother at the end of her freshman year. It was a difficult time for her and her family, but she did not let it get in the way of her goals. Mikayla stays focused in school and remains involved in many clubs and activities. In addition to her school involvement and volunteer work in her community, Mikayla also holds a part time job.

Mikayla is at every event promoting the school. As a student ambassador, she has been going to eight grade schools and high school fairs, spreading the message that St. Barnabas is a great school. Mikayla also plays Varsity soccer, is a member of the National Honor Society, National Hispanic Honor Society, and National English Honor Society. She helps out at all Open House events that take place in the evenings and on weekends. This year, Mikayla says the morning and afternoon announcements on the PA system. She is eloquent, outgoing, and courageous. She also participated in our first Diversity Alliance on a Saturday this past December. It seems like Mikayla is at every school event either participating, or enjoying it. She is a dedicated member of the St. Barnabas community and a true leader among her peers.

Mikayla is a top student who works hard and manages her time. Mikayla's junior year schedule is a challenge with Honor Chemistry, Honor Algebra II, and AP US History. Mikayla also is enjoying her Faith Sharing class, teaching Religious Education to elementary school students. Mikla is a go getter who is willing to work hard. She puts her all into what she does and is successful academically and socially. Mikayla never let any personal setbacks get in her way.

#### Bernice Ortiz-Garcia

#### Student

Bernice is currently a junior at Harry S. Truman and has a GPA of 3.8. She has faced many challenges with her health in her life but is still able to accomplish great things. She is a tutor, videographer, and a service learner for the Kips bay Boys and Girls club. Bernice joined the NYPD Explorer Academy and graduated from there. In 2017 her NYPD Explorer advisor nominated her for Explorer of the year. She now leads a group of teenagers in knowledge of the NYPD drills and scenarios.

This summer at Harry S. Truman High School Bernice taught and tutored other students in Algebra I and helped them pass the regents. Of this she was very proud.

Despite her struggles, Bernice goes to school every single day and is an Honors Student. She has an overall GPA of 93.07 percent, and has all honor classes. She dutifully attends gym everyday as she didn't want to let her Juvenile Arthritis define her or limit her, nor did she want to use it as an excuse. She is an inspirational young woman who has overcome so much and has accomplished even more.

# WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDEES 2018

Audra Archie Riddle Senior Court Reporter

Carla Burgess
NYS Court Officer

**Tina Carolei**Senior Court Clerk

Maribel Chaparro Principal Secretary

#### Audra Archie - Riddle

#### Senior Court Reporter

Audra Archie - Riddle is a Senior Court Reporter for Bronx Supreme Court. She has just begun her 31st year of employment in the Unified Court System, beginning as an Official Court Reporter in Manhattan Criminal Court, 100 Centre Street, then returning to the Bronx, assigned to Bronx Criminal Court. Prior to this, Audra's career began as a Hearing Reporter/Stenographer in the Grand Jury for the Bronx District Attorney's Office.

Audra is a long-time member of the Bronx Court's Bible Study, where she is sometimes called upon to lead the Class. In the community, Audra is a Troop Mom for her local Girl Scout Troop, serving under the Troop Leader for the Girl Scouts of Greater New York.

Audra Archie - Riddle is married to the Reverend Louis W. Riddle, Jr, who serves as Pastor in the Bronx, and both she and her husband serve as members of the 49th Precinct Clergy Council. As a team, they have participated in Roll Call Prayer, praying for the Police Officers before they begin their tours.

Audra is blessed to be the mother of two beautiful daughters, Leianna, a working, college student, majoring in Criminal Justice, and Aleesa, a high school student, majoring in Theatre, Drama and Performing Arts.

Audra and her siblings are the proud children of Mr. Isaac and Mrs. Gladys Archie, who have celebrated 61 years of marriage.

#### **Carla Burgess**

#### NYS Court Officer

Carla was born in Belize and immigrated to Harlem with her parents when she was two. She attended Cathedral High School and shortly after attended Long Island University. In 1994, Carla got married and upon graduating from college, worked for Time Warner Cable. After ten years at the company, she decided to take the court officer's exam. Upon graduating from the academy in 2010, Carla was assigned to Bronx Family Court as a NYS Court Officer. Currently, she is assigned to Child Protective Part 18 with Judge Kaplan. Carla is the proud mother of four amazing children and a living example of an immigrant that dared to dream!

#### Tina Carolei

#### Senior Court Clerk

Tina began her career with the Unified Court System in 2003, as a Senior Court Office Assistant.

After three years she was promoted to an Assistant Court Analyst. Her duties included numerous court functions in Bronx Housing Court.

Tina became a Senior Court Clerk in 2010, and is currently running three resolution parts and two trial parts. She was also a recipient of the Quality Service Award in 2010 for showing exemplary quality service with litigants and the work staff.

In 2017, Tina was elected to the position of Recording Secretary of the New York State Court Clerk Association a union of 1,536 members strong. Prior to that position she was a union delegate for two years for the Bronx Civil Court.

On a personal note, Tina is a hard working, single mother of a 16-year-old boy preparing for college in 2019.

#### **Maribel Chaparro**

#### **Principal Secretary**

Maribel Chaparro began her career with the Bronx Supreme Court in January of 2005, working as Secretary to the Hon. Mary Ann Brigantti. In August of 2007, Maribel joined the office of the Chief Clerk, Tracy Pardo where she ably assisted judicial and non-judicial staff with administrative and human resource tasks for over 9 years. In 2016, Maribel Chaparro was appointed and promoted to Principal Secretary to the Hon Administrative Judge, Hon. Douglas McKeon. Maribel currently serves as Principal Secretary to the Hon. George J. Silver, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge and Interim Administrative Judge.

Maribel is blessed with a wonderful family, her two daughters, Leeana and Caitlynn and a supporting and loving husband Gustavo.

# WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDEES 2018

Wanda Cubiero
NYS Court Officer

**Krystal Palmers**Principal Secretary

Cheryl Pendola
Senior Court Officer

**Shanell Saunders**NYS Court Officer

Teresa Torres

Administrator of the Bronx

County Clerk's Office

#### Wanda Cubeiro

#### **NYS Court Officer**

My name is Wanda Cubeiro and I have been a BXCC Officer for 20 years. I have been asked to write a bio. I decided instead to write in the form of a Q & A. Grateful!

#### WHO AM I...

I AM a single MOTHER to a wonderful 22 year old college student who says she never wants to disappoint me. A SISTER who while growing up in the South Bronx managed to protect and lead my younger siblings on the right path (they say I saved their lives). A FRIEND to many who say I inspire/motivate them towards believing in themselves and maintaining a positive outlook on life. A Court Officer, aka PEACE OFFICER born/sworn to protect & serve, believes in second chances, and I have gone out of my way to inspire & encourage many who have come through our system, especially our youths.

#### HOW CAN I SERVE...

One smile can create an abundance of smiles in return. A kind word can uplift a person who has reached rock bottom. Just being present with confidence, compassion and peace can make a stressful atmosphere serene. This is how I have served. I have spoken to students who have visited on court tours in arraignments when I worked there over 10 years ago. Now that I work in Trial parts, I have spoken and still speak to young adults who have come through the system. Also, I speak with those who are incarcerated, as I sit with them in the pens while they wait to see the judge. I have received different kinds of reactions as a result and I will quote a few. One prisoner said "You don't belong here, you are different", my reply, "No sir, it is YOU who does not belong here". He smiled and agreed. Another prisoner thanked me for asking him how he was doing. He said no-one had asked him that question in a very long time. Another prisoner thanked me for listening and not judging him. It is not just words but also actions and reactions that confirm you have made a difference in some way. This is who I have become yet I wish to be better and better so that I may create a bigger difference. This is what being an officer means to me. I not only wish to make people feel safe but I also wish to go above and beyond to make them feel that there is something worthwhile in them.

"You must be the change you want to see in the world" ~Ghandi

#### **Krystal Palmers**

#### **Confidential Secretary to Administrative Judge Torres**

Krystal Palmers was born and raised in the Bronx, New York. She graduated from Notre Dame School of Manhattan in the top 5% of her class. She then graduated from Dartmouth College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish Language, Culture, and Society. Krystal is a first-generation college graduate. She is passionate about public interest and community service.

Krystal worked as Chief of Staff for a New York State Assembly Member from 2011-2013. During that time, she also served as Vice President of the 46<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council. Since 2013, Krystal has worked as Principal Secretary to the Hon. Robert E. Torres, Administrative Judge of Bronx County Supreme Court, Criminal Term. She received her Juris Doctorate from Rutgers University School of Law in January 2018 and is currently pending admission to the New York State Bar.

Krystal is the proud single mother of a beautiful four-year-old daughter. She will continue service to the public and is joining the Office of the Bronx County District Attorney as an Assistant District Attorney in the Fall 2018.

#### **Cheryl Pendola**

Senior Court Officer

Cheryl has been a Court Officer for 26 years. She was assigned to Bronx Housing Court from September of 1992 through November of 2002. In her time there she has received 3 commendations for service. She was promoted to Bronx Supreme Court in November 2002. She is always glad to assist in all memorials and collections for officers in need. She has helped start and organize our annual SCO Judith Moise Toy Drive. Cheryl always leads by example and is willing assist in the training new officers in her command.

Senior Court Officer (SCO) Cheryl Pendola is the most Senior Female Court Officer in her command. Cheryl is always courteous and professional when on duty working at the magnetometer posts or wherever else assigned. Cheryl also assists in setting up a yearly memorial in front of the Operations Office in SCO Moise's honor. She also organizes the collection of donations for any personnel who have recently lost loved ones.

#### **Shanell Saunders**

#### NYS Court Officer

Shanell was born and raised in the Bronx, New York. She attended Holy Cross Parochial School for grade school as well as middle school. Shanell then attended, and graduated from Adlai E. Stevenson H.S. She attended and studied African American and Latino studies at Hunter College.

Shanell became a court officer in 2007, following in the footsteps of her Aunts', Cassandra Smith and Nicole Smith, both who are former "Women of Distinction" recipients! She loves that she is a role model for young women, who may have a desire to enter a career as a Peace Officer, and never hesitates to share the benefits of the job to anyone who may inquire.

Shanell has a love and pride of her culture and began a clothing line business venture, which incorporates those values. As a result, "Nappi Red" was established in 2017 to encourage women to embrace their natural hair and recognize their own unique beauty. Whether kinky, curly, nappy, wavy, straight or even bald, a women's crown should be worn with pride! "Nappi Red" is striving to celebrate women of color, but Shanell's desire is for all "sistahs" to confidently walk in their own truth!

#### **Teresa Torres**

#### Administrator of the Bronx County Clerk's Office

Terry's career began at the Bronx County Clerk's Office in 1989, when she accepted an entry level position handling personnel related duties. Terry quickly progressed through the ranks and was appointed in 2003 the position of Administrator of the Bronx County Clerk's Office. In 2010, she was honored as recipient of the Bernard Botein Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the administration of the courts. Terry has a positive style which . goes a long way in gaining the trust and confidence of the public which we serve.

Outside of work, Terry 's church affiliation allowed her to enrich the lives of young children of the community by teaching a Catechism class and was a member of the church choir. She also received the Melvin Jones Award, the highest honor of the Lions Club; named after the owner of the organization. She is the wife to Octavio Torres and a mother to three young adults; Stephanie, Sydney and Nicholas. She also recently became a grandmother to Charlotte Gray, now 9 months old.

#### Honorable Richard Lee Price

The Honorable Richard Lee Price is a Retired Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Criminal Term. Having sat most of his career in Bronx County, Justice Price presided over all felony matters, violations of probation, and was designated as the Bronx felony DWI Part. First elected Judge of the Civil Court in 1980, and re-elected in both 1990 and 2000, Justice Price was designated an Acting Supreme Court Justice before being elected to the Supreme Court in 2002. Before being elected to the bench, Justice Price had 15 years of legal experience, most notably as Chief Law Assistant of the Law Department where he supervised a staff of Attorney Law Assistants, Law Libraries, Administrative Proceedings of Civil Court Administration and prepared disciplinary charges.

Justice Price is a past president of the American Judges Association, and both teaches and extensively participates in many judicial education programs. He also conducts a rigorous and enriching judicial internship program for law school students, as well as one or two college and high school students consisting of three core components: courtroom observation, legal research and writing, and assisting in all chambers' tasks.

In addition to Justice Price's judicial responsibilities and educational activities, he is immersed in many extra-judicial programs. Among them is service as the founding chair of the Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District, a county-wide committee of the New York State Unified Court System, a position he held for over 30 years. Committee members come from every level of the court community, including the bar associations, advocacy and prosecution agencies that service or appear before the courts, the Bronx Borough President's Office, the County Clerk's Office, and each of the various courts in the Bronx. Created in response to recommendations of the Chief Judge's Committee on Gender Bias, the committee helps implement those recommendations, and seeks to sufficiently address and satisfactorily resolve issues of gender bias and general unfairness directed at members of the courthouse community. The more than 50 committee members promote many innovative events at the courthouse in support of gender fairness awareness issues for all employees, including the National Women's History Month, where women pioneers or leaders are recognized and honored, and the National Domestic Violence Awareness Day-October, where attendees are educated on domestic violence, avoiding it and obtaining assistance. Other programs include Food and Clothing Drives to benefit women's shelters, and Lunch Programs where documentaries and special events are held involving an array of gender fairness issues.

Justice Price is also chair of the New York County Lawyers' Association's Law Related Education committee that promotes many law-related activities for the public including the Lawyer in the Classroom program, Adopt-a-School, Youth Law Manual, The Annual High School Essay Contest and Youth at Risk. Committee members participate as mock trial coaches and judges in the New York State High School Mock Trial program, and the committee's Youth Law Manual is now in its third edition. The LRE Committee has also sponsored two Youth at Risk gang prevention programs at New York County Lawyers' Association entitled, Can We Develop Gang Prevention Strategies? Saving Our Children, Saving Our Future and Social Evolution in the Age of Obama - From Gang Communities to

Community Service. Both programs dealt with gathering information and formulating effective strategies that could be used to empower youth communities, prevent and reduce gang membership and direct public policy.

A former chair and current active member of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Citizenship Education, Justice Price previously served on his local community school board, as well as the boards of Educational Alliance and the High School for Law, Government and Justice. He continues to involve himself with school children through work with the Boy's Club, the Law Explorer Program, school visits, class visits to the courtroom, and the State-wide High School Mock Trial Program.

Supreme Court
Of the
State of New York

## GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



265 East 161st Street, 934 Bronx, New York 10451

HON. ROBERT TORRES Administrative Judge

HON. DORIS M. GONZALEZ Chair 851 Grand Concourse, 6M12-B Bronx, New York 10451

HON. DORIS M. GONZALEZ Administrative Judge

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE Chair

TO:

HON. DORIS M. GONZALEZ

CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

12TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FROM:

JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, ESQ.

CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DATE:

**FEBRUARY 4, 2019** 

RE:

OCTOBER 23, 2018 PROGRAM

The Gender Fairness Committee of the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District sponsored its annual Domestic Violence Workplace Education Day program, titled "Domestic Violence Through the Eyes of a Child", on October 23, 2018. Held in room 691 of the Bronx hall of justice, the event had approximately 45 people in attendance.

Speakers included Yhadira Gonzalez-Taylor, Esq., Administrative Law Judge & Author; D. Antoinette Kirwan, Legal Aid Society; Michelle Falcon, Clinical Supervisor, Child Trauma Response Team, Sanctuary for Families; and Arisly Rodriguez, Clincal Director, Sanctuary for Families.

The sub-committee was chaired by Hon. Bahaati E. Pitt. Members included Laura Bisignano, Carol Brumley-McManus, Joan Clodd, Darlene Dove-Malave, Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez, Hon. Wilma Guzman, Elix Madera-Fliegelman, Hon. Richard Lee Price, and Hon. Naita Semaj-Williams.

## The Gender Fairness Committee



## Domestic Violence Awareness Program

October 23, 2018 12:45pm - 2:00pm

Yhadira Gonzalez-Taylor, Esq. Administrative Law Judge & Author

> D. Antoinette Kirwan Legal Aid Society

Michelle Falcon Clinical Supervisor, Child Trauma Response Team, Sanctuary for Families

Arisly Rodriguez
Clinical Director, Sanctuary for Families



BronxHall of Justice 265 161st Street Room 691



Supreme Court Of the State of New York

## GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE For the TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



265 East 161st Street, 934 Bronx, New York 10451

HON. ROBERT TORRES
Administrative Judge

HON. DORIS M. GONZALEZ

851 Grand Concourse, 6M12-B Bronx, New York 10451

HON. DORIS M. GONZALEZ Administrative Judge

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE Chair

TO:

HON, DORIS M. GONZALEZ

CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FROM:

JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE, ESQ.

CHAIR, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

12<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DATE:

JANUARY 28, 2019

RE:

JUNE 27, 2018 PROGRAM

The Gender Fairness Committee of the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District sponsored an LGBTQ Panel Discussion in honor of Pride Month on June 27, 2018, in room 819 of the Bronx County Building.

Sub-committee chair Matthew Raso welcomed the attendees, followed by the National Anthem, sung by Michelle Baez. Hon. Robert Torres, Administrative Judge, Criminal Division, gave opening remarks.

A panel discussion followed. Speakers were Sean Coleman, Executive Director of Destination Tomorrow; Family Court Judge Sarah P. Cooper; Court of Appeals Judge Paul G. Feinman; Keadon Grinnell, Shelter Director of Marsha's House; and Deputy Administrative Judge George J. Silver. Closing remarks were made by chair Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez.

Subcommittee members are Matthew Raso, chair; Shantel Castro; Michael A. Frishman; Karen Lebron; Gisell Rodriguez; and Hon. Llinet Rosado. Program co-sponsors included The Bronx County Bar Association, The Bronx Women's Bar Association, CA Spanish, Chipotle, Court Deli, Starbucks, and Ty's NYC.



851 Grand Concourse Bronx, New York 10451 HON, GEORGE J. SILVER Deputy Chief Administrative Judge

HON. DORIS M. GONZALEZ

265 East 161st Street Bronx, New York 10451 HON, ROBERT TORRES Administrative Judge

HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE Chair

## THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**PROUDLY Presents its First** 

#### LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH LUNCHTIME PANEL DISCUSSION

JOIN US FOR A LIVELY DISCUSSION ABOUT THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY LIVING AND WORKING IN THE BRONX, A HISTORY OF LGBTQ SERVICES, AND WHAT WE CAN ALL DO TO ENSURE THE BRONX IS A SAFE AND AFFIRMING PLACE FOR LGBTQ INDIVIDUALS.

#### **PANELISTS**

Hon. George J. Silver, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts and Interim Administrative Judge of Bronx Supreme Court, Civil Term.

Hon. Paul G. Feinman, Associate Justice of the NYS Court of Appeals and first openly gay Justice appointed to the NYS Court of Appeals.

Hon. Sarah Cooper, Judge of the NYC Family Court.

Sean Coleman, Executive Director of Destination Tomorrow.

Kaedon Grinnell, Shelter Director at MARSHA's HOUSE.

#### **MODERATOR**

Matthew P. Raso, Esq., Chairperson of the Gender Fairness Sub-Committee.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018 12:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Bronx Supreme Court - Room 819 851 Grand Concourse Bronx, New York 10451

Light lunch and refreshments will be provided after the panel discussion.

## The Gender Fairness Committee

TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

HON. GEORGE J. SILVER
DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTATIVE JUDGE

HON. DORIS M. GONZALEZ, CHAIR HON. JOSEPHINE BASTONE, CHAIR

IN COOPERATION WITH

THE BRONX COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

AND

THE BRONX WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PROUDLY PRESENT

# LGBTQ PANEL DISCUSSION IN HONOR OF PRIDE MONTH

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018

12:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Bronx Supreme Court - Room 819

851 Grand Concourse

Bronx, New York 10451

#### **PROGRAM**

WELCOME......Matthew Raso NATIONAL ANTHEM......Michelle Baez OPENING REMARKS......Hon. Robert E. Torres PANEL DISCUSSION......Hon. George J. Silver Hon. Paul G. Feinman Hon. Sarah P. Cooper Sean Coleman **Keadon Grinnell** 

CLOSING REMARKS......Hon. Doris M. Gonzalez



## Hon. George J. Silver

DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF THE NEW YORK CITY COURTS

In July, 2017, Hon. George J. Silver was appointed, by Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks, to the position of Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the New York City Courts. In that capacity, he is responsible for the handling of the day-to-day court operations for the Trial Courts in New York City. In January 2018, Judge Silver was appointed to the position of Interim Administrative Judge of Bronx Supreme Court, Civil Term.

Justice Silver is a native Bronxite attending public schools from elementary school until his graduation from Christopher Columbus High School. After graduation, Justice Silver attended New York University where he was conferred a M.S. in Accounting and Management. He attended Hofstra University School of Law where he was conferred a J.D. in 1983. Justice Silver was also conferred a M.B.A. in Finance from New York University Stern Graduate School of Business in 1992. At the time, he was also working full time as in-house counsel for five private bus companies. Thereafter, he joined Fields & Rosen, a firm specializing in maritime law, commercial and real estate matters and personal injury actions, in addition to handling matters for the bus companies. After several years, Justice Silver became an equity partner in the firm whose name was changed to Fields, Silver & Santo, L.L.P. and ultimately Silver & Santo, L.L.P.

In 2004, Justice Silver was elected to the Civil Court of the City of New York being initially assigned to Civil Court, Kings County, until he was re-assigned in April 2009 to Family Court, Bronx County where he presided over juvenile delinquency matters. In January 2010, Judge Silver was appointed a Supreme Court Justice by designation and assigned to Supreme Court, New York County where he presided over the approximately two thousand motor vehicle

cases pending in New York County. From April 2011 until October 5, 2015, Justice Silver presided over the Trial Assignment Part in Supreme Court, New York County. In 2012, Justice Silver was also asked to handle potential, early settlement of Medical Malpractice Cases as part of a specialized grant program. In 2012, Justice Silver was elected to the Supreme Court of the State of New York. In October 2015 Justice Silver was asked to preside over a newly created Mediation Part called J-Med. in addition to his other assignments-the Medical Malpractice Early Settlement Part and an IAS Part handling general matters. And, in 2016, a limited Matrimonial caseload also was assigned to Justice Silver.

Justice Silver is also involved in many community-based organizations and bar associations including the NAACP, the International Association of Gay and Lesbian Judges and the Jewish Lawyers Guild. He is currently co-chair of the Ethics and Professional Committee of The Torts, Insurance Compensation Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. Justice Silver is also a new member of the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion of the New York State Bar Association.



## Hon. Paul G. Feinman

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE COURT OF APPEALS

Hon. Paul G. Feinman was born in 1960 in Hempstead, New York, the third of five children. He was raised in Merrick, where he attended public schools. Judge Feinman graduated from Columbia College, Columbia University (A.B. 1981) and the University of Minnesota Law School (J.D. 1985), attending both on scholarship. He also studied at the Université de Paris VII (Jussieu), the Université de Paris II (Assas) and the Université de Lyon III.

He began his legal career as a Staff Attorney for the Appeals Bureau of the Legal Aid Society of Nassau County and then worked for the Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division in Manhattan. From 1989 to 1996, he clerked for Justice Angela M. Mazzarelli in Supreme Court, Criminal and Civil Branches, and in the Appellate Division, First Department.

In November 1996, Judge Feinman was elected to the Civil Court of the City of New York; he was re-elected in 2006. From 1997 - 2001, he was assigned to the Criminal Court. He was designated an Acting Supreme Court Justice in Manhattan in 2004 and elected a Justice of the Supreme Court in 2007.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo appointed him to the Appellate Division, First Department in October of 2012. Governor Cuomo nominated Judge Feinman to the Court of Appeals on June 16. 2017. The State Senate unanimously confirmed his nomination on June 21, 2017.

He previously served as President of the Association of Supreme Court Justices of the State of New York, Inc. (2013), President of the International Association of LGBT Judges (2008 - 2011), Presiding Member of the Judicial Section of the New York State Bar Association (2012 -2013), and President of LeGaL, the LGBT Bar of Greater New York (1996).

He resides in New York City with his husband, Robert Ostergaard.

## Hon. Sarah P. Cooper

JUDGE OF THE NEW YORK CITY FAMILY COURT

Hon. Sarah Cooper was appointed as a New York City Family Court Judge by Mayor Michael Bloomberg on January 1, 2012 and currently presides over a child protective part in the Bronx Family Court. In 2015, Judge Cooper led efforts to plan and implement a new court model called the "Strong Starts Court Initiative" to address the specialized mental health needs of infants and parents in child protective proceedings. Judge Cooper was formerly appointed as a Court Attorney-Referee, and sat in the Bronx County Family Court from 2004 to 2011 where she presided over custody, visitation, guardianship, and domestic violence cases. She formerly worked as an ACS trial attorney in Kings Family Court from 1996-2004 and as a matrimonial trial attorney from 1995-1996.

Judge Cooper received her B.A., from SUNY Binghamton and her J.D. from the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law and was admitted to the First Department in March of 1996. Judge Cooper is the President-Elect of the Association of Judges of the Family Court of the State of New York and the immediate past President of the NYC Family Court Judge's Association.

Judge Cooper is the Chairperson of the Bronx Family Court Child Protective Task Force and a member of the following organizations: DCAJ's Bronx Family Court anti-discrimination panel; The NYC Family Court Advisory Council to the Administrative Judge, Committee for LGBT Matters; the NYS Bar Association, Family Law Section and the Bronx Women's Bar Association

## Keadon Grinnell

SHELTER DIRECTOR, MARSHA'S HOUSE

Kaedon Grinnell was raised in the Soundview section of the Bronx. He attended Amherst College, and earned a degree in Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought. In 2010, he began working for Project Renewal's Methadone Transitional Housing Program for men. In 2013, he assisted with the launch of Project Renewal's first supportive housing program for families with a history of Substance Abuse Issues, before taking a position as the Director of social Services for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Men's Shelter, a substance abuse emergency shelter located in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. In 2015, he transitioned to the position of Program Director for The Villa, a 56 unit congregate care supportive housing program for individuals with substance abuse and/or mental health issues located in the Bedford Park section of the Bronx. In 2016, he took on the role of Shelter Director for Marsha's House facilitating the launch of the first DHS funded LGBTQ shelter for young adults. Kaedon has also worked with the CUNY / DYCD Family Development Credential Program (FDC) since 2014 as a portfolio advisor and facilitator. The FDC program provides frontline human service workers with the skills to provide strength based services and teach families empowerments skills. In March 2017, he became the lead instructor for the program's Lehman College Campus.

## Marsha's House

Marsha's House is a DHS funded 81 Bed single adult DHS emergency shelter for young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 who identify as members of the LGBTQ community. Clients are linked to Case Management, Benefits Assistance, Housing Coordination, Vocational Counseling/Placement & Peer Counseling Services. Clients also have access to medical and mental health services as well as onsite programming from a number of community partners. Marsha's House is located in the Belmont section of the Bronx, near One Fordham Plaza. For more information, please call 212-913-9993 ex. 250.

## Sean Coleman

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DESTINATION TOMORROW**

Sean Coleman, is the founder and executive director at Destination Tomorrow and serves as the operating manager of the Bronx Trans Collective. Mr. Coleman has over 19 years of experience working with the LGBTQ community. In 2009 Mr. Coleman opened Destination Tomorrow out of a lack of adequate programs for LGBTO African Americans. His goal is to shine a light on both racial and health disparities while building programs/services that were inclusive of the Transgender community. Currently, Mr. Coleman is a part of the NYS Transgender advisory group, assembled by the AIDS institute to develop recommendations that address the needs of Transgender community members as it relates to the Ending the Epidemic Blueprint. He also sits on the NYS HIV Advisory Board, the NYS Health & Human Services community advisory board, Bronx Community Board 2 (appointed by the Bronx Borough President), The Transgender Legal and Education Defense Fund Board of Directors and the Project AFFIRM advisory board. In 2016 Mr. Coleman opened the Bronx Trans Collective (BTC), the only Trans led multi service agency in NYS. The BTC is a collaborative effort that was developed by grassroots Transgender leaders of color to begin to provide services to transgender people of color (TPOC). This effort uses a wraparound approach to care, meaning clients can access multiple services under one roof, often time with just one engagement. The BTC obtained resources from the NYC Council Member Richie Torres to open its doors. Mr. Coleman is also a member of the House and Ballroom scene, providing resources to those calling the ballroom scene home. His efforts to integrate a public health narrative into this social network began back in 2004 and has resulted in city and state agencies as well as other community based organization recognizing the opportunity to engage many community members with structural interventions. Mr. Coleman is an out transgender male and believes that being visual and living his truth encourages others within the transgender community to do the same.

## **Destination Tomorrow**

Destination Tomorrow is a community led organization that works to empower those most impacted by social economic factors, health disparities and the criminalization of marginalized communities. Our motto is that everyone is entitled to safe, affirming programs and services in their neighborhood. Focusing on those that identify as trans and gender non-conforming, LGBTQ youth and members of the House and Ballroom community, we pride ourselves in preparing our clients today for a better tomorrow.

### HON. DORIS M. GONZALEZ Chair

### HON. JOSEPHINE M. BASTONE Chair

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Laura Bisignano Hon. Mary Ann Brigantti Yvette Brownridge Carol Brumley-McManus Pat Bruno Shantel Castro Joan A. Clodd Hon. Maryanne Doughtery Darlene Dove- Malavé Michael A. Frishman Michelle Foggie Hon. Wilma Guzman Esther E. Kelly Karen Lebron Hon. Sue Levy Elix R. Madera-Fliegelman Hon. La Tia W. Martin Catherine Mercorella Hon. Shari R. Michels Nancy Neddermeyer Major Ostacio Negron Tracy Pardo Anthony J. Perrotto Hon. Bahaati E. Pitt Matthew Raso Hon. Brenda Rivera Hon. Gayle P. Roberts Gisell Rodriguez Major Jose Rodriguez Hon. Jeanette Rodriguez-Morick Terri J. Roman Hon. Llinet Rosado Julius Torres

HON. RICHARD LEE PRICE Ex-Oficio

# Special thanks to our sponsors for their generous contributions...

THE BRONX COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

THE BRONX WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

CA SPANISH

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TY'S NYC

# Special thanks to the Sub-Committee members for their hard work and dedication...

MATTHEW RASO - SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIR

SHANTEL CASTRO

MICHAEL A. FRISHMAN

KAREN LEBRON

**GISELL RODRIGUEZ** 

HON. LLINET ROSADO



Twelfth Judicial District's LGBTQ Pride Month Event in the Bronx (June 27, 2018)

From The Richard C. FAI'llA L&BTQ Commission of the New York Courts JANUARY 2019 NEWSlETTER

# THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE AND THE BRONX BAR ASSOCIATION

Present



AWARENESS MONTH PROGRAM

> October 24, 2018 12:45 -2:00

> > **GUEST SPEAKERS**

Arlene Salman

Christine Brennan
BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS

Roshni Rao, MD

CHIEF OF BREAST SURGERY,

**COLUMBIA PRESBYTERIAN** 

BRONX SUPREME COURT 851 GRAND CONCOURSE ROOM 819

LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

# Bronx County Civil Court Committee on Equality in the Courts

Hon. Elizabeth A. Taylor and Hon. Eddie J. McShan, Chairs

### **Bronx County Civil Court Committee on Equality in the Courts**

Chairs: Hon. Elizabeth A. Taylor and Hon. Eddie J. McShan

Members: Hon. Paul Alpert, SCO Ricky Arroyo, ADCC Margie Cole, Hon. Marian Doherty, Hon. Laura Douglas, SCR Victoria Efferen, Paul Feder, Esq., CCDRA Devri Goins, CCS Mary Ellen Guarneri, Esq. SCC James Hyater, Anthony Nunez, Esq., and Kinanda Williams-Murray, Esq.

Counties served: Bronx

### 2018 Meetings

Meeting Dates: 6/12, 7/10, 9/12, 10/11, 11/13 and individual meetings

Average Attendance: 10

Do you use Videoconferencing? No

### 2018 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Defer to the Gender Fairness Committee as they put on programs in the same building.

### Other Special Events

As Civil Court is referred to as the "People's Court," we put on programs to assist self-represented litigants in navigating Civil Court. On November 29, 2018, we put on a program on "How to Navigate Civil Court When Sued for a Credit Card Debt or Loan." Our panel included judges, court attorneys, court clerks, court officers and court reporters. In addition, our panel included representatives from Bronx Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO), Phipps Neighborhoods - Financial Empowerment Center (Phipps) and New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) - Consumer Protection Unit. Participants had the opportunity to hear from and ask questions to the various representatives. The representatives explained their roles as well as the litigation process of a civil case in the Consumer Credit Part from the initial filing stage to the disposition of the case. They also advised the participants on how to obtain legal assistance. The attached list is a summary of each handout that was provided. Phipps scheduled one-on-one financial planning with interested people. At the end of the program, there was a question and answer period. In the past, we have put together programs on "How to Navigate Civil Court," and "How to Navigate Housing Court."

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email, Flyer, and Word of Mouth Who and how many attended? Approximately 80 people Was there any press before or after? No

### **Future Plans**

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2019: April 8, others TBD

Special Events & Educational Programs

Due to the overwhelming interest in the last program, we will repeat the program on "How to Navigate Civil Court When Sued for a Credit Card Debt or Loan?"

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019? In 2019, we believe that it is important to maintain and encourage equality in the courts through the employment of women. We believe that a program on careers in the court system will help to expose people in the community to careers in the court.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? None

Areas of Success in 2018: We received positive feedback and overwhelming requests to repeat the program on "How to Navigate Civil Court When Sued for a Credit Card Debt or Loan?" The purpose of this program was to provide people, who do not have attorneys, with information and resources as they represent themselves in consumer credit cases. Participants received a wide variety of information, including packets, from the Court's Help Center.

### Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects? Bronx Borough President

Name of Handouts	Description of Handouts
Volunteer Lawyer For A Day	Provides information on how consumer debt defendants can get free legal representation.
Sued By A Creditor in Civil Court?	Provides information on how consumer debt defendants can get free legal advice.
Managing Your Money, Get Free Help.	Provides information on how consumer credit defendants can get help to resolve debt issues and prevent future reoccurrence.
The Help Center Services	Provides information on the various services offered by the Help Center ranging from procedural information to interactive Do It Yourself (D.I.Y) and access to legal services.
Information Guideline	Provides information on the information that the court staff can and cannot provide in terms of procedure, explanation and access to information.
Notice of Garnishment	A sample notice of garment.
Asummons	Provides a template of a summons.
Complaint	Provides a template of a complaint.
Name of Handouts	Description of Handouts
Answering A Debt Collection Case	Provides general procedural information about answering, when and where to answer and what happens if one does not answer.
Written Answer Consumer Credit Transaction Form	Provides a template of the Written Answer Form.
Is There A Default Judgment Against You?	Provides information on how one should know when a default judgment is against them.

Order To Show Cause Form	Provides a template on restoring a case to the calendar and vacate any judgment, liens and income execution on the defendant, allow answer or dismissing the action.
Affidavit In Support of Order To Show Cause	Provides a template to vacate a default judgment for failure to appear and answer and to file an answer or dismiss the case.
Order To Show Cause Information Sheet on Defense	Provides various reasons that a defendant can tell a Judge why the other party should not win a case.
Supplemental Affidavit In Support Of Order To Show Cause	Supplemental Affidavit In Support Of Provides a template for the purpose of adding additional facts and circumstances that are Order To Show Cause
Common Defenses In A Debt Collection Case	Provides a list of common defenses that an unrepresented litigant can raise in a debt collection case.
Affidavit Of Service By Mail	Provides a template for unrepresented defendants.
Name of Handouts	Description of Handouts
Request For Judicial Intervention	Provides a template of a Request For Judicial Intervention.
Information Sheet On Service	Provides information on the types of services.
Affidavit Of Service After Commencement of Litigation	Provides a template of the form.
Certified Mail Receipt	A sample certified mail receipt for service by mail.
Do It Yourself (DIY) Form	Provides information on the types, programs and courts that DIY forms can be used for.

Vacate Default Judgment In a Consumer Debt Case	Provides information on the free and easy program that helps consumer debt defendants tell a Judge why they missed the court date or didn't answer a summons and complaint.
NYS DIY Forms	Provides step-by-step guide on how to fill out court forms.
Consumer Credit Part Adjournment Sheet	Provides a sample sheet with the adjournment date, time, location and index #.
Name of Handouts	Description of Handouts
Notice	Provides a sample notice.
Request For Adjournment	A template of the Request for Adjournment form.
Affirmation In Oposition To Order To Show Cause	A template of the Affirmation in Opposition.
Reply Affirmation	A template of the Reply Affirmation.
A Stipulation Of Settlement	A template of a Stipulation of Settlement.
Stipulation Of Discontinuance	A template of a Stipulation Of Discontinuance.
Confession Of Judgment	A template of a Confession Of Judgment.
Decision/Order	A template of a Decision/Order.
Name of Handouts	Description of Handouts
Referrals To Private Attorneys Only	Provides information on getting help from the Bronx Bar Association Legal Referral Service.

Legal Services Referral List	Provides information on the various free legal services that are available to low-income defendants in each county/borough.
Credit Report Agencies	Provides a list of credit report agencies.
Disputing Errors On Credit Reports	Provides information on how to dispute credit report errors.
Sample Letter For Disputing Errors On Your Credit Report	Template of a letter for disputing errors on one's credit report.
Recovering From Identity Theft	Provides Information on the steps to take when one's identity is stolen.



### BRONX CIVIL COURT COMMITTEE ON EQUALITY IN THE COURTS

BronxEqualityintheCourts@gmail.com

Hon. Elizabeth A. Taylor Co-Chairperson

**Hon. Laura G. Douglas**Supervising Judge, Bronx Civil Court

Hon. Eddie J. McShan Co-Chairperson

Hon. Anthony Cannataro

Administrative Judge, Civil Court of the City of New York

In Sponsorship with Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.



### Present

# How to Navigate Civil Court When Sued for a Credit Card Debt or Loan

Panelists include: Dora Galacatos, Esq., Executive Director of Fordham Law School Feerick Center for Social Justice (Bronx CLARO); Jonathan Ortiz, Director of Financial Empowerment Center – Phipps Neighborhoods; and Anna Park, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney, Consumer Protection Unit – NYLAG

Date: Thursday, November 29, 2018

Time: 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: 851 Grand Concourse, Rotunda, Bronx, N.Y. 10451

**Committee Members:** Hon. Paul Alpert, SCO Ricky Arroyo, ADCC Margie Cole, Hon. Marian Doherty, Hon. Laura G. Douglas, SCR Victoria Efferen, Paul Feder, Esq., CCDRA Devri Goins, CCS Mary Ellen Guarneri, Esq., SCC James Hyater, Hon. Eddie J. McShan, Anthony Nunez, Esq., Kinanda Williams-Murray, Esq., and Hon. Elizabeth A. Taylor











Gender Fairness Committee, New York County, Supreme Court, Civil Term

Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan and Gregory F. Testa, Chairs

### Gender Fairness Committee, New York County, Supreme Court, Civil Branch

Chairs: Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Administrative Judge for Civil Matters, First Judicial District, and Gregory F. Testa, Esq., Associate Court Attorney

Members: Valerie Qualls, Secretary, Simone Abrams, Kelechi Acholonu, Esq., Doina Rosu Almazon, Hon. Nancy Bannon, Hon. Arlene Bluth, Hon. Margaret Chan, Hon. Matthew Cooper, Michelle Furey-D'Esposito, Patricia Garone, Elizabeth Gertz, Esq., Joan Gilbert, Hon. Judith Gische, Hon. Shlomo Hagler, Steven Helfont, Esq., Yesenia Herrera, Cecily Hernandez, Hon. Lynn Kotler, Joan Levenson, Esq., Hon. Eileen Rakower, Sheila Riley-Aultman, Marie Rosemy, Hon. Lori Sattler, Hon. O. Peter Sherwood, Gloria Smyth-Godinger, Hon. Milton Tingling, John Werner, Esq., Shadai Wilkins

Counties served: New York

### 2018 Meetings

Meeting Dates: Our committee holds meetings or special events on a monthly basis.

Average Attendance: 20

Do you use Videoconferencing? Yes

### 2018 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month

In recognition of Women's History Month, our committee hosted its annual Women's History Month Program on April 19, 2018. The program featured a lecture and PowerPoint presentation by Susan Herman, Deputy Commissioner, Collaborative Policing, of the NYPD. DC Herman served as the Special Counsel to the Police Commissioner to three consecutive Police Commissioners and was an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Pace University. She also served as the Executive Director of the National Center for Victims of Crime, Director of Community Services at The Enterprise Foundation, Director of the Domestic Violence Division at Victim Services (now Safe Horizon), Director of Mediation Services at the Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution, and an instructor at NYU School of Law and NYU's Wagner School of Public Service.

DC Herman spoke about her work with the NYPD and how the Office of Collaborative Policing concentrates on developing more non-enforcement options for police officers, designing creative and focused enforcement strategies, and improving access to police services.

Following the lecture, the committee presented its annual Women's History Month Service Awards to two members of our courthouse. The 2018 Women's History Month Distinguished Jurist Award recipient was the Hon. Eileen Bransten. Judge Bransten, who recently retired, was elected to the New York State Supreme Court in November 1999. In 2008, she was assigned to the Commercial Division after having spent seven years presiding over a Medical Malpractice Part. Judge Bransten was introduced by the Hon.

Jennifer Schecter and the Hon. Saliann Scarpulla. Both Judge Schecter and Judge Scarpulla worked as Judge Bransten's principal court attorney and reflected upon their time with the Judge and her accomplishments.

The 2018 Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award recipient was Valerie Qualls. Valerie has worked as the secretary to the Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler for the last 22 years in her positions as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court; Elected Justice of the Supreme Court; Administrative Judge of the New York State Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Term; Coordinating Judge for Asbestos Matters; and currently, as Justice of the Supreme Court and Chief of the Office of Policy and Planning for New York State Courts. Judge Heitler spoke of Valerie's many contributions to the courthouse and to her community.

After the presentation of the awards, a reception followed with refreshments.

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month
On October 11, 2018, the Gender Fairness Committee hosted its annual Domestic
Violence Awareness Program featuring a special presentation by Asha Vaghela.

Ms. Vaghela works as an Attorney Advisor for the United States Air Force in the Air Force Legal Operations Agency where she provides Air Force senior leaders subject matter expertise in the areas of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse. Ms. Vaghela utilized a PowerPoint presentation and spoke about her work within the military as well as the procedures and response the Air Force has implemented for incidents involving domestic violence. At the conclusion of her presentation, Ms. Vaghela answered questions from the audience.

Ms. Vaghela was presented with the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Program's Certificate of Appreciation.

Other Special Events or Activities Bring Your Children to Work Day

On April 26, 2018, our committee hosted its annual "Bring Your Children to Work Day" program which welcomes children of employees to an educational and fun day in the courthouse.

The children were greeted at the courthouse by a buffet style breakfast. After breakfast, they attended a presentation featuring courthouse employees who discussed their duties and roles within the judicial system. Following a short break, the children took part in mock trials with Supreme Court Justices in which the children played the role of judges, jurors, witnesses, and attorneys. The program concluded with a security presentation by court officers and a pizza lunch. The attendees were provided with a certificate of attendance as well as a gift bag.

The Holocaust Remembrance Program

On April 26, 2018, our committee, along with the Jewish Lawyers' Guild, co-sponsored the annual Holocaust Remembrance Program. The program featured presentations by the Hon. Martin Shulman and the Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan. Judge Kaplan read a brief biography of each family which detailed their experiences during and after the Holocaust. A candle lighting ceremony by family members followed each biographical reading.

The keynote presentation was given by Menachem Z. Rosensaft. Mr. Rosensaft, the son of two survivors of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp and the Nazi concentration camp of Bergen-Belsen, has been an activist for the past four decades and teaches others about the law of genocide and war crimes trials at Columbia Law School and Cornell Law School. He is the founding chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, and was appointed to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council by President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama.

Following the lecture, a musical performance was presented by the SAR High School Choir. The Amud Aish Memorial Museum provided an exhibit which was featured in the rotunda of 60 Centre Street during the week of the program.

### Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Event

On June 1, 2018, the Annual Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Event was held in 60 Centre Street's historic rotunda. This event, which our committee co-sponsors, is named in honor of Caren Aronowitz, a beloved court employee who passed away and who was instrumental in organizing many courthouse events. The event is co-sponsored by various bar associations and community organizations. It features a buffet of food celebrating different cultures. Musical performances, including a performance by the New York State Court Bagpipe and Drum Corps, and a slideshow celebrating the diversity within our courthouses, are also annual features of this event.

Raising Awareness Against Breast Cancer & Domestic Violence Program

This luncheon event which took place on October 19, 2108, was coordinated by Court

Officer Cecily Hernandez and was co-sponsored by our committee. The theme of the

event was "Soar Survivors: Women Who Win" and featured discussions with survivors of
domestic violence and breast cancer. It also featured a webinar by the National Breast

Cancer Foundation, Inc.

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email, Flyer, and direct contact with bar associations, colleges, law schools, and nonprofits

Who and how many attended?

Our events generally attract about 100 people and are open to members of the public. The events are attended by judges, judicial and non judicial staff, attorneys, bar association members, college and law school professors, students, and members of the community.

Was there any press before or after? Yes

### **Future Plans**

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2019:

We will have a committee planning meeting in February to organize our spring and summer events.

Special Events & Educational Programs

We hope to co-sponsor a CLE this year and conduct our annual events which include the Domestic Violence Awareness Program, Women's History Month Program, the Holocaust Remembrance Program, Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Event, and Bring Your Children to Work Day.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019? Gender equality and domestic violence

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? None

Do you see unmet training needs? No

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 - 2:00 in the courthouse? Courses for the Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias requirement.

Areas of success during 2018 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts:

We have received great feedback and appreciation from the court community for our annual programs.

### Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?

Bar Associations, Colleges, Domestic Violence Organizations, and Law Schools



# The 2018 Women's History Month Celebration

April 19, 2018 Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Term, Room 300 1:00-2:00 P.M.

featuring a special presentation by Keynote Speaker and Honoree
Susan Herman
Deputy Commissioner, Collaborative Policing, NYPD

and presentations of

The Women's History Month Distinguished Jurist Award to Hon. Eileen Bransten

The Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award to Valerie Qualls

The Office of Collaborative Policing concentrates on developing more non-enforcement options for police officers, designing creative and focused enforcement strategies, and improving access to police services. A member of the NYPD from 1985 to 1990, DC Herman served as the Special Counsel to the Police Commissioner to three consecutive Police Commissioners. DC Herman was an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Pace University, served as the Executive Director of the National Center for Victims of Crime, Director of Community Services at The Enterprise Foundation, Director of the Domestic Violence Division at Victim Services (now Safe Horizon), Director of Mediation Services at the Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution, and an instructor at NYU School of Law and NYU's Wagner School of Public Service. A recipient of the United States Attorney General's National Crime Victim Service Award, DC Herman is known for her new vision of justice set forth in her book *Parallel Justice for Victims of Crime*. DC Herman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Bryn Mawr College and a Juris Doctorate from the Antioch School of Law.

The Gender Fairness Committee will be presenting its annual Women's History Month Service Awards. The Women's History Month Distinguished Jurist Award will be presented to the **Hon. Eileen Bransten**, who presides in the Supreme Court, Commercial Division, New York County, for her dedicated service to the bench and bar. The Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award recipient will be **Valerie Qualls**, Administrative Assistant to Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler, who will be recognized for her 24 years of service to the court system.

THIS EVENT IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE, NEW YORK COUNTY, CRIMINAL BRANCH

# THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK COUNTY SUPREME COURT, CIVIL BRANCH PROUDLY PRESENTS

Women's History Month 2018

APRIL 19, 2018
1:00 P.M.
SUPREME COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY
60 CENTRE STREET, ROOM 300, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

# Women's History Month 2018

Welcome and Introduction of the Keynote Speaker

Honorable Deborah A. Kaplan Administrative Judge For Civil Matters, First Judicial District & Co-Chairperson of the Gender Fairness Committee, Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch

**Keynote Speaker** 

Susan Herman
Deputy Commissioner, Collaborative Policing, NYPD

Lecture

"Collaborative Policing in Action"

Presentation of
The Women's History Month Distinguished Jurist Award To
Honorable Eileen Bransten

Remarks

Honorable Saliann Scarpulla Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Term

Honorable Jennifer Schecter Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Term

Presentation of
The Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award To
Valerie Qualls

Remarks

Honorable Sherry Klein-Heitler Chief of the Office of Policy and Planning for New York State Courts

**Closing Remarks** 

Gregory Testa, Esq.
Co-Chairperson of the Gender Fairness Committee, New York County, Civil Branch

# Guest Speaker Deputy Commissioner Susan Herman

Deputy Commissioner, Collaborative Policing, NYPD



Returning to the New York City Police Department in January, 2014, Susan Herman was named Deputy Commissioner, Collaborative Policing. Deputy Commissioner Herman's role is to foster shared responsibility for public safety through productive partnerships with individuals, government agencies, and community-based organizations. The Office of Collaborative Policing concentrates on developing more non-enforcement options for police officers, designing creative and focused enforcement strategies, and improving access to police services.

A member of the NYPD from 1985 to 1990, DC Herman served as the Special Counsel to the Police Commissioner to three consecutive Police Commissioners: Benjamin Ward, Richard Condon and Lee P. Brown. Prior to her return, DC Herman was an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Pace University. She also served as the Executive Director of the National Center for Victims of Crime, Director of Community Services at The Enterprise Foundation, Director of the Domestic Violence Division at Victim Services (now Safe Horizon), Director of Mediation Services at the Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution, and an instructor at NYU School of Law and NYU's Wagner School of Public Service.

A recipient of the United States Attorney General's National Crime Victim Service Award, DC Herman is known for her new vision of justice set forth in her book *Parallel Justice for Victims of Crime*. DC Herman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Bryn Mawr College and a Juris Doctorate from the Antioch School of Law.

### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2018 SERVICE AWARDS

Hon. Eileen Bransten

Women's History Month 2018 Distinguished Jurist Award

Justice Eileen Bransten was elected to the New York State Supreme Court in November 1999. In 2008, she was assigned to the Commercial Division after having spent seven years presiding over a Medical Malpractice Part. Before that, Justice Bransten was elected to the Civil Court in 1993 and was appointed an Acting Supreme Court Justice in 1996. As an Acting Justice, she presided over a General Trial and then a Matrimonial Part. During her tenure as a judge, hundreds of Justice Bransten's decisions have been published in the Miscellaneous Reports and the New York Law Journal. In addition, over the course of her judicial career, Justice Bransten has issued thousands of orders and judgments.

Throughout her legal career, Justice Bransten has been active in numerous bar associations and organizations. Justice Bransten was Co-President of Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA) from 2006 to 2008, and remains, to this day, on its Board of Directors. In 2013, Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman appointed her to serve on the permanent Commercial Division Advisory Council.

Justice Bransten served as the Presiding Member of the New York State Bar Association's Judicial Section in 2008. Justice Bransten is currently a member of the City Bar Association's Council on Judicial Administration. She also previously served on the City Bar Association's Committee on State Courts of Superior Jurisdiction and on the City Bar Association's Medical Malpractice Committee. From 1993-1994, Justice Bransten participated on the New York City Civil Court's Anti-Gender Bias Committee. Justice Bransten has been a faculty member for continuing legal education programs conducted by the New York State Bar Association, the City Bar Association, the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, the New York County Lawyers Association and the Practising Law Institute and has lectured on varied topics including commercial division practice, state court practice, medical malpractice and ethics.

Justice Bransten served as the President of the Association of the Supreme Court Justices of the State of New York in 2012. She also served as an officer of the New York State Supreme Court Board of Justices and is currently a member of the Association of the Supreme Court Justices of the City of New York

Justice Bransten is a graduate of Hunter College (summa cum laude, 1975) and Fordham University School of Law (class of 1979). After law school, from 1979 to 1984, she served in the Queens County District Attorney's Office and then worked as a solo practitioner for seven years. In 1992, she became the Principal Court Attorney and Law Secretary to Supreme Court

Justice Jacqueline W. Silbermann (now retired) who at that time was also Administrative Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York.

In 2000, Justice Bransten was inducted into the Hunter College Alumni Hall of Fame and presently serves on the Board of Directors of Fordham University Law School. She has also volunteered as a judge for moot-court and mock-trial programs at Columbia Law School, Fordham University School of Law School, the City Bar Association and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

Justice Bransten and her late husband, John Simpson - former Director of Constituent Services and Senior Affairs to the Comptroller of the City of New York Scott Stringer - who died in 2017, were long-time residents of Manhattan. They thoroughly enjoyed traveling, reading books, going to the theater and spending time with their family: their two sons Richard and John, Richard's wife Sarah and their grandchildren Brendan and Erin. For over two decades, she and her husband have volunteered at the Blessed Sacrament Soup Kitchen. Justice Bransten remains an avid West Sider.

Today we proudly honor Judge Bransten with the 2018 Women's History Month Distinguished Jurist Award in recognition of her many years of dedicated and devoted service as a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York.



Women's History Month 2018 Distinguished Service Award

Before joining the Unified Court System, Valerie Qualls worked for U.S. Steel as an Addressograph Operator and at Sillcox A/C & Refrigeration as Secretary to the President. After working for Court Reporting Agency as a freelance typist, transcribing court records from tape recordings, Valerie worked for Bonnie Walsh Associates as well as Custom Meetings, Inc., where she specialized in meeting planning. Following working for Alfred Sica, Esq., Valerie joined the New York State Unified Court System on March 21, 1994.

Valerie first worked in the Supreme Court's Civil Branch as secretary to the Hon. Karla Moskowitz. In 1996, Valerie served as a Law Stenographer assigned to two Acting Justices of the Supreme Court at the same time - the Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler and the Hon. Paula Omansky. When Acting Judges were allowed a full time secretary, Valerie chose to work for Justice Heitler.

Valerie has worked with Justice Heitler for the last 22 years in her positions as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court; Elected Justice of the Supreme Court; Administrative Judge of the New York State Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Term; Coordinating Judge for Asbestos Matters; and currently, as Justice of the Supreme Court and Chief of the Office of Policy and Planning for New York State Courts.

Throughout the years, Valerie has been very active in the court community. She has

served as the Secretary of the Gender Fairness Committee from 2008. She was president of the Association of Secretaries to Supreme Court Justices from 2006 to 2009. As such, she participated in such great causes as book drives, cell phone drives, the JALBCA Harlem Outreach program, and toy drives. She has also assisted in the coordination of the Weight Watchers at Work program.

Valerie has been instrumental in promoting and coordinating the Take Your Children to Work Day Program at the Supreme Court, Civil Term. In this efficiently organized program, Valerie strives to educate future generations about the importance of the judicial system.

In 2011, Valerie's service to the court was recognized when she received the Bernard Botein Award. The Botein Award is presented each year to UCS employees in the First Department for their outstanding contributions to the administration of justice. The award is presented in memory of Bernard Botein, who served as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department, and President of the New York City Bar Association.

Today, we proudly honor Valerie's continuous dedication to the courts, her distinguished service, and the many accomplishments she has achieved throughout her career.

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

Gender Fairness Committee, Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch

Committee chairpersons: Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Gregory F. Testa, Esq. Committee members: Simone Abrams, Doina Rosu Almazon, Hon. Nancy Bannon, Hon. Arlene Bluth, Hon. Margaret Chan, Hon. Matthew Cooper, Michelle Furey, PJ Garone, Elizabeth Gertz, Esq., Joan Gilbert, Hon. Judith Gische, Hon. Shlomo Hagler, Steven Helfont, Esq., Yesenia Herrera, Officer Cecily Hernandez, Hon. Lynn Kotler, Stephanie M. Lagumina, Esq., Joan Levenson, Esq., Deanna Lucci, Esq., Ilana Marcus, Esq., Valerie Qualls, Hon. Eileen Rakower, Judith Rifkin, Esq., Sheila Riley-Aultman, Marie Rosemy, Hon. Lori Sattler, Hon. O. Peter Sherwood, Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff, Hon. Milton Tingling, John Werner, Esq., Officer Shadai Wilkins.

Thank you to Hon. Heidi Cesare and the Criminal Court, New York County, Gender Fairness Committee for co-sponsoring this event. Thank you to Luis Carrero, Augustine Capote, Sergio Colon, Michelle Gonsieski, Ahmad Jenkins, Naomi Ruiz, and Loren Schwartz.



Asha Vaghela works as an Attorney Advisor for the United States Air Force in the Air Force Legal Operations Agency. She provides Air Force senior leaders subject matter expertise in the areas of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse. Ms. Vaghela also serves as a liaison to various functional communities within and outside of the Air Force including the Air Force and Department of Defense's Sexual Assault and Prevention Offices, Family Advocacy Programs, Office of Special Investigations, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Air Force and Department of Defense's General Counsel's Offices, the Special Victims' Counsel Program, civilian prosecutors, and non-governmental organizations. Ms. Vaghela previously worked for the United States Navy as an Attorney Advisor in which she served as the Navy's subject matter expert regarding the litigation of special victim crimes. She has also worked in the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General as a Deputy Attorney General and the Director of the Human Trafficking Unit and served as an Assistant District Attorney in Bronx County. Ms. Vaghela has a Juris Doctorate from Seton Hall University School of Law and has a Bachelor of Arts from Rutgers University.

This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments to be provided.

# THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK COUNTY SUPREME COURT, CIVIL BRANCH PROUDLY PRESENTS

The Domestic Violence Awareness Month Brogram

OCTOBER 11, 2018
1:00 P.M.
SUPREME COURT, NEW YORK COUNTY
60 CENTRE STREET, ROOM 300, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

# The 2018 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Program

### Welcome

Honorable Deborah A. Kaplan Administrative Judge For Civil Matters, First Judicial District & Co-Chairperson of the Gender Fairness Committee, Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch

**Introduction of our Guest Speaker** 

Honorable Matthew F. Cooper Associate Justice, Appellate Term, First Department, & Domestic Violence Subcommittee Co-Chairperson

**Keynote Speaker** 

Asha Vaghela, Esq.
Senior Civilian Military Justice Attorney
Air Force Legal Operations Agency

### Lecture

"An Overview of the Military Response Systems for Domestic Violence cases"

**Closing Remarks** 

Gregory F. Testa, Esq.
Domestic Violence Subcommittee Co-Chairperson

# Our Guest Speaker

### Asha Vaghela, Esq.

Asha Vaghela works as an Attorney Advisor for the United States Air Force in the Air Force Legal Operations Agency. She provides Air Force senior leaders subject matter expertise in the areas of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse. Ms. Vaghela also serves as a liaison to various functional communities within and outside of the Air Force including the Air Force and Department of Defense's Sexual Assault and Prevention Offices, Family Advocacy Programs, Office of Special Investigations, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Air Force and Department of Defense's General Counsel's Offices, the Special Victims' Counsel Program, civilian prosecutors, and non-governmental organizations.

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# Special Thanks

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Esq., Yesenia Herrera, Officer Cecily Hernandez, Hon. Lynn Kotler, Stephanie M. Lagumina,
Esq., Joan Levenson, Esq., Ilana Marcus, Esq., Valerie Qualls, Hon. Eileen Rakower, Judith
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Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff, Hon. Milton Tingling, John Werner, Esq., Officer Shadai Wilkins.

Thank you to Luis Carrero, Augustine Capote, Sergio Colon, Michelle Gonsieski, Ahmad Jenkins, Naomi Ruiz, and Loren Schwartz.



# Just Us



A publication from Supreme Court Civil Branch, First J.D. New York County and New York County Clerk's Office

Remembrance Issue No. 7, April 26, 2018

### Introduction

by Hon. Martin Shulman, Program Co-Chair with Hon. Deborah Kaplan

The Jewish Lawyers Guild and the Gender Fairness Committee of the Civil Branch of the Supreme Court, New York County and the New York County Clerk's Office annually sponsor a Holocaust Remembrance Program. Why? Because, it is so vitally important to ensure that the horrors of the Holocaust becomes part of the collective DNA of humanity. It is also our sacred duty to ensure the Holocaust continues to be a living memory as we mourn the loss of millions who perished, cherish the survivors and hear their stories, the latter which should inspire all of us to create a safer, fairer world of peace and tolerance. Sadly, there is a also need for such programs to fight the bigoted haters who deny such atrocities ever happened.

Every year, we publicly read the stories of six Holocaust survivors, and after each story is read, the survivor or the survivor's children and grandchildren lights a candle to honor the memory of loved ones. These six candles also lit to honor the memory of the six million souls who perished. Finally, our annual program serves as a constant reminder of our collective responsibility to protect the civil and human rights of all people in our society and across the world.

This special Just Us edition enables other members with our court system and in the legal community to read the six stories we heard, and the keynote address of renowned Professor Menachem Z. Rosensaft, General Counsel, World Jewish Congress and Editor of God, Faith & Identity from the Ashes: Reflections of Children and Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors. Readers will also see photographs of the Amud Aish Memorial Museum's moving exhibit specially created and displayed in our courthouse Rotunda highlighting the work of a Jewish family and non-Jewish Swiss official who enabled thousands of Jews to fee over the Swiss border, escaping persecution and death.

Remembrance Issue Editor: Loren Schwartz

### Candle Lighters: Gaston Silvera and Hon. Adam Silvera

Gaston Silvera was born in Sousse, Tunisia to Sassia Hadjaj and her husband Saidou Silvera on March 1, 1932. Gaston was one of nine children: six boys and three girls. Before World War II, the family was prosperous and their lives were filled with happiness. They had a house on the beach right near the Mediterranean coast. Gaston's father owned two fish restaurants that catered to the local Italian fishermen which amply provided for the family.

Their wonderful life all changed once Germany invaded Tunisia in 1942. All Jews were forced to register, wear a yellow star, and abide by mandatory curfews. Like most Jews' in Tunisia, the Silveras' property including their home and restaurants, bank accounts, jewelry, furniture and other valuables were confiscated. Gaston's father and older brothers were forced into slave labor. Food was scarce. For one month, a Righteous Tunisian Muslim family hid, sheltered and fed Gaston, his mother and sisters. Thereafter for the duration of the German occupation, the Silvera family was homeless and moved from town to town, seeking food and shelter.

Once the war was over and the Germans left Tunisia, life returned to somewhat normal. However, the Silvera family was still homeless as their beachfront home had been destroyed during the war. Sadly, they also learned that a maternal Aunt (Marcelle Garbi) was killed by the Nazis, who threw a grenade into her home when she failed to extinguish the Shabbat candles after the Germans announced lights out on a Friday evening.

There was no future for the Silvera family in Tunisia. They left in 1949 and emigrated to Israel with a brief layover in Marseilles, France. Gaston served in the Israeli military as a paratrooper in the War of 1956.

He married Anne Friedman, an American, in 1968 and relocated to New York, where they still live today. Gaston and Anne have two sons (Sander and Adam) and three grandchildren (Naftali, Ahmos, and Cochava (Co HA va), who is currently serving as a sergeant in the Israeli Airforce).

Gaston Silvera and his son, State Supreme Court Justice Adam Silvera, will light the next candle.

From top, Gaston Silvera, Gaston and Anne Friedman on their wedding day, Judge Silvera with his mother and father in his chambers



### Candle Lighters: Professor Annette Baslaw-Finger

As Jews, Annette's parents were prevented from attending college in Vilna, Lithuania. Independent of each other, they came to Paris, France to study at the Sorbonne, where they met. Although just 17 when they fell in love, theirs was a lifelong love story.

Annette was born and raised in Paris. When she was a mere 5 years old, her parents taught her a poem called "The Goblet" so she could participate in the literary evenings that they hosted. The goblet was said to be at God's right side in Heaven. Whenever an act of cruelty or indifference to cruelty was committed, an angel shed a tear into the goblet and people would learn a lesson. Human suffering was supposed to end when the goblet was full and people finally understood. The last line of the poem was a heartfelt plea: "Dear God, when will the goblet finally become full? Isn't it time yet?"

Although too young to remotely comprehend the meaning of the word 'suffering', her audience did and she was rewarded with chocolates and applause. However, it was not long before she understood the meaning of the word. Many were the times when she asked: "Dear God, when will the goblet become full?"

When the Germans invaded, France held out for even a shorter time than the Warsaw Ghetto. The invaders brought profound sorrow to French Jews. Like Jews across Europe, they had to don the yellow star. Moreover, they experienced the contempt of former friends and neighbors, some of whom identified the hiding places of Jewish families to the Germans in exchange for monetary rewards.

Hoping the suburbs would be safer than Paris, Annette's family followed the long lines of people similarly headed. Not being military personnel, they were excluded from most means of transportation. However, that did not prevent low-flying German planes from strafing them with machine guns. A French film, Les Jeux Interdits (The Forbidden Games), depicts the chaos and tragedies they experienced at the beginning of their long, difficult journey to safety and freedom.

From age 10-13, Annette's life was focused on finding hiding places. During this part of her childhood, she was plagued by fears that her parents would be dragged away, leaving her alone-to fend for herself. Once, they found refuge on a farm. There she attended school for a month pretending to be a distant cousin with limited education.

Fearing for their safety, her parents decided to risk walking over the Pyrenees into Spain. Joined by an aunt, uncle and two cousins (Gittle and Jack Trapunsky, Eugene and Frances) who had been hiding in Toulouse, they hired a guide to steer them past the German soldiers posted along the route. Annette's two-year old cousin Eugene contracted whooping cough, which causes loud, explosive coughing. Afraid of being caught, their guide abandoned the group.

After four days and five nights of climbing, they completed the difficult trek to the Spanish side, where they found no rest or welcoming. Warned that they would soon be sent back, they began the long hike across Spain to Portugal.

Walking by night and hiding by day, the family survived on what little food her father and uncle gathered while walking the railroad tracks and passing fields. Portugal, which was neutral, welcomed the family even though they were in the country illegally. After 10 months, the family emigrated to the United States on papers prepared by Annette's father's former employer.



Annette Baslaw surrounded by family

ed in the United States, Annette became a teacher, Judaism with pride and joy. obtained a Ph.D., then became a professor, eventually becoming chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and International Education at NYU.

In America, Annette met and married the wonderful Al Baslaw, whom she loved deeply. After he passed away, she was lucky enough to meet and fall in love with Ambassador Seymour "Max" Finger, whose memory she also mourns. Annette's 3 children, 9 grandchildren and 10 great

Taking advantage of the education provid- -children have retained their identity and practice

Professor Annette Baslaw-Finger lights this candle in memory of the many family members who perished in the Holocaust, including her maternal and paternal grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Among those who perished and lost the prospect of meaningful lives were respected scholars, and many generous and compassionate hearts (including the Szer and Notik families, of blessed memory).



#### Candle Lighters: Clara Heisler and her daughter Rosemarie Weingarten

Weiss. My story of surviving the Holocaust ironically begins at a Pesach Seder at which the story of the Israelites' escape from Egypt is retold.

It was 1944. Almost all of Europe was occupied by Nazis forces. My family lived in a town along the northwest border of Hungary and Romania.

Our Seder table was set with the finest china, glistening goblets and sterling silverware, starched white table cloths and handstitched napkins. Gathered around the Seder table were my immediate family, my parents, my three sisters and my brother, as well as many guests. We were all singing DAYENU, a song about being grateful to G-d for all the gifts he gave the Jewish people, each one of which would have been enough.

Ominously, there was a knock on the dining room window: it was the Hungarian Police! Friendly with my father, they came to warn us that Nazis were coming to round us up and put us in a ghetto! They urged us to hide.

Overcome by terror and trembling, we wondered what to do. My father allayed our fears; he said: "We are in G-ds hands, and He will protect us." Just then the Nazis burst into our house, and took us to the Ghetto. It was a Passover I'll never forget.

To this day, I can visualize my father calling me aside in the ghetto and telling me: "My dear child, we want you to escape. Someone from our family has to survive to tell our story." Crying, I asked: "how can I survive, I am only 15 years old? Why not my sisters?" I was strong-willed; he knew I would persevere and survive. Being the only child with blond curly hair and blue eyes, I also had the best chance to pass as a non-Jew. My father's last

I, Clarika, was born to Aaron and Mattie words to me were "Remember who you are, and where you came from, never forget." ter many hugs and kisses, I made my way out of the ghetto.

> Wandering the streets, I remember my mom's words of caution, "My child, be very careful what kind of company you mix with." Heading towards a family friend, a household my father directed me to seek out, I arrived with hope that that they would hide me.

Upon arrival, I find that my father had prepared for my escape. A suitcase with clothes and money awaited me. However, my optimism was short lived, for the family could not hide me for fear for their own safety.

Once again, I was on my own, hoping to make my way towards Budapest. My first attempt at taking the train resulted in me being outed as Aaron Weiss's daughter. A neighborhood boy advised the SS guards that I was a Jew. Quick of tongue, I explained that I worked for Mr. Weiss, first as a factory worker and then a housemaid. "Now that they are in the ghetto, I am unemployed and must seek another job." Fearful that the guards didn't believe me, I jumped from the train before the next stop.

Arriving in Budapest four days later, I searched for the address my father had given me. Planning ahead, my father provided me with another suitcase. My hopes for some rest and security were dashed when I was told that I could not stay. Like before, the host was fearful for his own family's safety. Prior to leaving, I was informed that my brother Dudi was in a forced labor camp. My courage began leaving me as I walked back into the street, heading to nowhere.

Sleeping on park benches, I was kept going only by my will to survive and to find my family again.

Coming upon a Kosher restaurant that had no food, I befriended other displaced Jews, with no hiding place, with no place to go. During this time, I was again stopped by officers, asking: "What are you doing and where are you going?" Saved once again by my quick thinking, I explained, "I came for midnight mass and am waiting to be picked up." This clever answer allowed me to live another day, and ultimately to survive.

At the war's end, I made my way back to my home town. After returning, I was informed that my brother Dudi and I are the only survivors. Two months pass and I find comfort in opening my family's home to other displaced survivors. Shortly thereafter, I was introduced to Shloimy Heisler, my future husband. With joy in my heart, and a new spring in my step, I, Clarika, was ready to take on the world.

Again, my joy is short lived, for the Communist agents arrive, making me and my new husband refugees in my own country. With no legal documents, Shloimy, my brother Dudi and I paid a handsome price to be smuggled into Germany.

Once in Germany, we were given directions to a displaced persons camp. After a year in the camp, my husband was appointed Rabbi. Our final destination was America, and we were eager to start a new life with our baby Rosemarie.

In time, we add baby Chani to the family and with the help of Hashem, our business flourished. Shloimy became the founding member of the Satmar community of Boro Park, supporting many causes in the community.

At the war's end, I made my way back to me town. After returning, I was inI that I have forgotten! Do you think my guilt has gone away - why did I survive when the others didn't? It is my belief and faith that G-d has a master plan.

I, Clarika Weiss, am now known as Clara Heisler. My name has changed but I know who I am and where I came from. I raised my children to remember our roots, our heritage and to maintain our values. Now that you have allowed me to share my family's story, I hope that you, too, will never forget.

Clara Heisler and her daughter Rosemarie Weingarten will light the next candle.



SAR High School choir sang two moving songs to close the Remembrance Ceremony.

#### Candle Lighters: Ilana Marcus and her parents, Daniel and Miriam Sussman

Miriam was born in 1942 in a small town outside of Krakow. Her parents, Erna and Benno Korngut, were land-owning Jews. As Nazis invaded their town, Erna and Benno separated, and ran from bunker to bunker to escape. Erna took Miriam with her and Benno grabbed their older daughter, Hania, a 3-year-old. Benno implored a neighbor to hide Hania. The neighbor initially took in Hania, but then put her outside alone, and she began to cry. Benno returned to save his child, but was apprehended. Hania was swiftly killed and he was deported to the camps.

Erna also left Miriam with a neighbor, Marianna Byrczek (BEER-CHEK), who took in Miriam and raised her as her own along with her four natural children. Marianna's sister had recently been killed in a fire and Marianna pretended that Miriam was her niece, even though her sister had no children. Marianna was a Righteous Gentile: she not only saved Miriam, but also took in two other Jewish teenagers, and hid them in her barn. By doing so, Marianna risked her life and the lives of her entire family.

Erna lived out the war with her brother, in hiding. Benno survived several concentration camps and was eventually liberated from Dachau Concentration Camp, where he was worked nearly to death. After liberation, Erna and Benno reunited and returned to their hometown to find Miriam, who had survived in the care of Marianna. Miriam continued to live with Marianna until Erna and Benno were relocated by the Polish government. The land that Erna and Benno owned became the property of the Byrczek (BEER-CHEK) family, whose descendants still reside on it today.

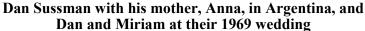
After the war, Erna, Benno and Miriam were relocated to a small apartment in southwestern Poland. Confused and homesick for Marianna and her family, Miriam tried to run away many times. Erna and Benno had two more children (Regina and Yola) before Benno died in 1954, from the consequences of his captivity during the war.

Life in Poland became insufferable because of Communism and rampant anti-



Miriam Sussman as a girl





A Gestapo officer knew that Anna and Dan lived outside the ghetto and he once helped Abek visit them. However, one day in 1941, Abek, along with every other Jew in his uniform factory, was marched into the street and promptly shot and killed. Upon learning that Abek had been murdered, Anna and Dan somehow escaped Poland, arriving at some point in Czechoslovakia. Anna remarried Sigfried Sussman

(also a survivor) there, and Sigfried adopted

Semitism. Erna received a tourist visa to Italy in 1967, and planned her escape with her three daughters. They eventually made their way to America as refugees.

Zelik, Erna's brother, survived the war and emigrated to Israel. Many of the other members of the Korngut and Feltcher families were murdered along with Hania, Miriam's older sister.

Ilana's father, Dan, was born in a small town 16 miles south of Lodz (WOODGE). Dan's father, Abek (AH-BEK) Brehm, was a tailor who owned a small uniform factory. Germans occupied the town in September 1939. At that time, there were about 18,000 Jews in the town. The Nazis began a program of cruel beatings, murders, and confiscation of property. Refugees from nearby towns streamed in, inflating the town's Jewish population. On October 9, 1939, the city's commander ordered the establishment of the ghetto. Abek's wife Anna, and child, Dan, remained outside of the ghetto, pretending they were German. Abek's factory was commandeered to supply Germans with military uniforms. Abek tried to hire as many Jews as possible at the factory.

The new family managed to escape to South America. Anna kept Dan in braces (probably pretending he had Polio), during their trip and during the several years that followed so that he would not leave her side. She was concerned someone would discover Dan was circumcised, as all Jewish boys are. Having the braces prevented him from undressing without Anna. The family settled in Argentina, where Dan was baptized and where they all became citizens.

Dan did not know his Jewish heritage until he was a teenager. Anna, Siegfried, and Dan immigrated to the United States in the late 1960s. Throughout her life, and whenever possible, Anna made significant donations to the State of Israel.

Dan.

Dan and Miriam met in 1967 after Anna was a patient at NYU Hospital; Miriam was working there as a laboratory technician.

Dan and Miriam want to acknowledge that some people may ask Holocaust survivors "Where was your god?" but a better question is "Where was the world?" To be sure the lessons

of the Holocaust are not lost, they ask everyone to speak out against Genocide that is happening around the world today.

Ilana Marcus, Principal Court Attorney, New York Supreme Court, Civil Division and her parents Miriam and Dan Sussman will light the next candle.



Ilana's parents, Dan and Miriam, with their youngest grandchild, Ilana's son Gabriel Marcus

## Candle Lighters: Harry Witlin and his daughters Lisa Nadler and Abby Tolchinsky

Harry Wittlin was born in 1931 in a town near Lvov (Levov), Poland. He grew up in a Jewish home with his parents (Abraham and Clara) and sister Ester, may they rest in peace. In 1941, the Nazis invaded their town, and changed their lives forever.

Trains filled with Jews headed to gas chambers passed through their town. Many

surrounding towns were judenfrei (literally, "free of Jews"). Those who tried to escape the trains were shot.

By the winter of 1942, the Gestapo was routinely searching homes, rounding up Jewish men. Harry's father, Abraham, would frequently run to an area behind their home and hide in the fields.

In the spring of 1942, barbed wire was going up-forming a ghetto for the Jews. The Nazi commander who searched their home spoke with his mother, whose fluent German impressed him. He lingered and told her that their family's best chance to survive was to hide. That suggestion led to their escape.

The Wittlin family didn't know where to go. Abraham, being a grain dealer, reached out to a farmer he knew named Jan Lukawski. Jan and his family were very poor but they agreed to hide Harry's mother and sister under hay in their barn.

During this time, Harry and his father wandered the woods, looking for thick bushes in which to hide, so they wouldn't be seen. They were freezing, hungry and swollen from the exposure. Soon open sores covered their skin. Every few days, Abraham would leave the woods and carefully go to the Lukawski home to retrieve food.

Eventually, rumors of hidden Jews took root. Clara and Ester had to leave the farm and join Abraham and Harry in the woods. The four of them wandered and hid together. The family fled the general area for fear the locals would search for them and hand them over to the Nazis. They were in even worse danger than before.

One day, two Ukranian security guards in charge of monitoring the woods, showed up with an axe and a rifle. The family was ordered to undress and lie down! Instinctively, Harry ran for the woods and hid behind a tree. To this day, Harry remembers saying the "shema" over and over, thinking this was the end.

Harry wandered alone in the woods for days. Collapsing, he heard a dog bark. Luckily, he recognized this bark- it was the Lukawski's dog. He

begged for help and Jan agreed to hide him. Jan dug a hole and covered Harry with hay. Once a day, a child's hand would reach through the hay and hand him a container of milk. He never actually saw the child.

Meanwhile Abraham had run in another direction. His mother and sister were chased by the peasant with the axe, captured and held captive in a farm house, awaiting pick up by the Nazis. Desperate, Clara and Ester somehow escaped through a window and searched the woods. Eventually, they were reunited with Harry's father.

Days later, they learned that Harry was alive, hidden at the farm. Jan and Magdalena were not able to hide the reunited family again- it was just too dangerous. So, the Wittlin family's suffering became much more severe.

Throughout the remaining two years in the woods, the Lukawskis remained their source for food and survival. Harry and his family hid in ditches by day and wandered by night - hungry, thirsty, exhausted and always terrified. The details of their survival are so upsetting, Harry is unable to share them all.

When the Russians liberated them in 1945, Harry and his sister were too weak to stand up. After the war, the family settled in Munich, where Harry attended school with about 40 other children, also survivors. Three of them are still alive and remain good friends.

In November 1949, at age 18, Harry and his family emigrated to America and settled with family in Brooklyn. Just a couple of years later, Harry was drafted and served in the Korean War. When Harry was discharged, he attended Baruch College and went into business.

The names Jan and Magdalena Lukawski are engraved, in Jerusalem, on the wall of the Righteous Among Na



Harry Witlin, his late sister Esther Born, and his late mother, Clara Klein

tions at Yad Vashem. Without their help, the Wittlin family wouldn't have survived.

Today Harry's two daughters, their husbands, and four of his five grandchildren reside in the United States. The fifth grandchild lives in Israel. Ester's children and grandchildren live in the US as well.

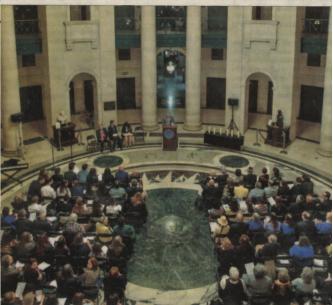


Harry Witlin with family members in 2017

The child's hand that snuck Harry milk each day while he was hidden under the hay belonged to Emilia Lukawski. Just last year they spoke, and they write to each other often.

Harry wants to thank everyone for being here and for listening to his story. Joining Harry to light the next candle are his two daughters – Lisa Nadler and Abby Tolchinsky, Esq.





The New York Law Journal covered the Remembrance Ceremony.

## Candle Lighters: Irene Lebovits, Justices Gerald Lebovits and Margaret Chan, Natalie Lebovits, Kenneth Lebovits, and Or Zaidenberg

[This remembrance, written by Justice Gerald Lebovits, is a highly condensed version of his forthcoming book, *Holocaust Houdinis*. It will be published in 2019.]

It wasn't mere bigotry. Or prejudice. Or anti-Semitism or racism.

It was genocide.

More dedicated were the Nazis and their collaborators to exterminating Europe's nine million Jews than they were to winning WWII.

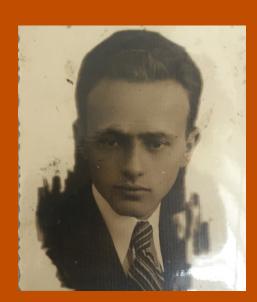
Given their effort to rob from, enslave, and annihilate the Jewish people, less surprising is it that six million Jews died than that three million Jews lived. Every survivor suffered unspeakable horrors from 1933 through 1945. No survivor fully recovered. The survivors must be honored for who they were, for their will to live, for what they went through, for how bravely they endured.

This is the story — much of it a secret, untold until now — of two Central European

Holocaust survivors and their family members who lived and died. The first survivor, Irene Lebovits (b. Sept. 12, 1925), is nicknamed Maca, like the unleavened bread. Born Irene Mermelstein, she lives in Florida. The second is her husband, Eugene Lebovits (b. Aug. 7, 1921), who died on December 1, 1994.

Only the luckiest survived the Holocaust. But it helped to be smart. Eugene and Irene were lucky and smart. Eugene spoke 12 languages, drew like an architect, and computed collegelevel math in his head. He was a charismatic man and a tough Jew. Irene spoke five languages and was beautiful: blond and blue eyed, a blessed child whose father owed vineyards, a distillery, a dairy farm, and a general store. Irene and her two sisters and four brothers — all of whom had their own servants — were proud ethnic Hungarians. So were Eugene and his family.

Irene and Eugene were born five miles from each other in a province then called Subcarpathian Ruthenia. Irene was born in Komlos (Chmil'nyk). Eugene was born in Komyat





Irene's brothers, Ernest (left) and Arnold, were burned to death on the Eastern front.

(Velikiye Komyaty). Eugene's paternal ancestors, beginning with patriarch Mark Leibovitz, had lived in Komyat since at least 1728; on his mother's side, some came from Nitra, now in the western part of the Slovak Republic.

Subcarpathia was Austro-Hungarian through WWI. Then it was in the Slovak part of Czechoslovakia. Hungary retook the province in 1939. After WWII, it became part of the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. Now it's in independent southwestern Ukraine, in a province called Zakarpattia.

Irene and Eugene's fathers were Austro-Hungarian soldiers in WWI. 50,000 Jews died in WWI fighting for Germany and Austro-Hungary. Irene's father, Ludwig, lost his hearing in an ear. Zoltan, Eugene's father, almost drowned in the June 1918 Second Battle of the Piave River fighting the British, French, and Italians. 20,000 Austro-Hungarians died in that bloodbath. Nobel Laureate Ernest Hemingway wrote about that battle in A Farewell to Arms, his 1929 masterpiece.

Europe between WWI and WWII. Eugene's cousin Hannah Senesh, a Palestine Mandate poet and spy originally from Budapest, parachuted behind German lines to help save the Hungarian Jews. The Hungarians captured, tortured, and shot her dead at age 23. Reinterred in 1950 in Mt. Herzl's military cemetery in Jerusalem, hun- Investigations at America's largest socialdreds of thousands lined the streets for her funeral procession.

Four of Irene and Eugene's uncles moved to America and had children. Had they remained in Europe, they probably would've been murdered because of their faith.

Steve Lawrence, Eugene's first cousin, was born Sidney Liebowitz in 1935 in Brooklyn, U.S.A. Steve married Eydie Gormé. Together they were American singing sensations. Regulars on the Ed Sullivan Show, Steve and Eydie performed with the likes of Frank Sinatra, who always credited Steve as the greatest singer he'd



Lili, Irene, and Elizabeth Mermelstein

ever heard. A younger generation of fans might recall Steve as Maury Sline from the 1980 Blues Some of Irene and Eugene's relatives left *Brothers* movie or as Morty Fine, Fran's father's voice from TV's *The Nanny*.

> Eugene's first-cousin Sheldon Mermelstein, married to Fran Greher, was born in Brooklyn in 1944. A long-time Manhattan Lower East Sider, Sheldon retired as the Director of services agency, the New York City Human Resources/Department of Social Services Administration. Fran retired as the Preschool Director of the Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North Jersey.

> Irene's first cousin Milton Mermelstein, from Newark, New Jersey, was an intelligence officer on a U.S. warship that landed with the first wave at Utah Beach on D-Day. An esteemed New York City lawyer, he became chairman of board of the Alexander's Department Stores. Though Jewish, his passion was Catholic charities. He received an honorary doctorate from New York City's St. John's University, a Vincentian institution that teaches how to

find God and oneself in public service. A leader of the Knights of Malta, Milton was knighted by the Pope.

Seymour (Cy) Mermelstein, another of Irene's first cousins from Newark, New Jersey, fought in WWII with the Devil's Brigade. This 1800-man unit, 463 of whom died in combat, killed some 12,000 German soldiers and captured another 7000. The Devil's Brigade was featured in books, TV, and movies (*Devil's Brigade* (1968); *Monuments Men* (2014)). In 2013, the Devil's Brigade received the Congressional Gold Medal. The Speaker of the House called

In 1922, Eugene's family moved from Komyat in the newly formed Czechoslovakia to Satmar (Satu Mare) in Northern Transylvania, Romania, because Benjamin Lebovits, Eugene's grandfather, was murdered by two Ukrainian brothers who owed him money. Everyone knew who did it. The authorities did nothing.

The Hungarians retook Satmar from the Romanians in 1940 in a deal Hitler imposed on Romania. Eugene was drafted into the Hungarian Labor Battalions in October 1942. It was slave labor enforced by military discipline. He heard that his Battalion was going to the Eastern



Above, a dog tag Irene Mermelstein wore while in slave labor at the Lorena factor. One side was inscribed with her number, on the other she engraved her nickname, Maca. Right, Irene after liberation.

Cy and his comrades-at-arms "the finest of the finest." Cy also helped liberate Germany's Buchenwald Concentration Camp, where the Nazis crucified priests upside down.

550,000 American Jews fought in WWII. 38,338 died. 52,000, including Milton and Cy, earned military honors. For these GI Jews, fighting the Germans was a personal affair. So was defending America, their home.

Unlike the handful who escaped to America, most of Irene and Eugene's relatives remained in Europe. The Holocaust destroyed their world. Front. No Jew who went was ever heard from again. Eugene escaped in September 1943. He was lucky. The German and Hungarian armies used the Jewish Battalion slaves as human mine sweepers. Two of Irene's brothers, Dr. Arnold Mermelstein, a lawyer, and Dr. Ernest Mermelstein, a dentist, both Battalion slaves, lived through the mines but perished on the Eastern Front when the Nazi SS or the Hungarians locked them inside a barn and burned it down. Arnold and Ernest were married. Their spouses, Ettu and Rachel, survived the camps and moved respectively to Israel and Canada after the war.

Eugene eluded the fate of Irene's brothers by hiding in Budapest in September 1943. The Hungarians put a price on his head for de-

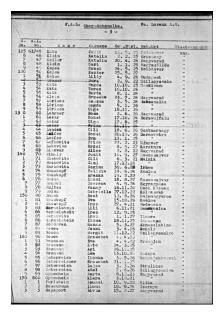
sertion. His face was on wanted posters. And Budapest was unsafe. The Hungarian Arrow Cross fascist militiamen — the Nyilas — spent their days lynching Jews from lampposts and shooting 20,000 of them into the Danube.

One day, Eugene wore a monogrammed shirt with his real initials on it. Another Jew caught him and demanded hush money. Eugene refused, saying, "You're a Jew. You'll never turn me in." But he did, and Hungarian counterintelligence arrested Eugene. Eugene was imprisoned and tortured in the Buda Castle, the Gestapo headquarters, and then turned over to the Hungarians for a court-martial show trial. He was tried in Kolosvar (Cluj) for desertion before Hungarian military judges, who sentenced him to death by firing squad. By day during the trial, the firing squad was practicing in the courthouse yard. By night, Jews, including Eugene's family, held candlelight vigils outside his prison.

Three months before the near-total annihilation of the Northern Transylvanian Jews, the rabbis and the governing Jewish Council placed a tax on every relatively rich Jewish family in three cities to bribe Hungarian Col.-General Lajos Veress de Dálnok, the Deputy Regent of Hungary, to commute Eugene's sentence. Redeeming Jewish captives is a religious commandment called *pidyon shvuyim*. Izrael Lieb Berko, later martyred in Auschwitz, collected the bribe to save Eugene. (Izrael's grandson is a Legal Aid Society lawyer in New York City.) The court resentenced Eugene to 10 years' hard labor.

Eugene didn't complete his sentence. He escaped from hard labor after a few months and hid for a few months on the estate of Count János Esterházy, a righteous gentile. By then the Soviets had liberated the area. But the Soviets captured and jailed Eugene in Debrecen, Hungary, pending his deportation to Siberia as a stateless person. Eugene talked his way out of jail after two months by befriending the prison's Soviet commanding officer, a Jewess.

He then returned to Satmar in late 1944 and joined the Siguranța Statului, King Michael I's Romanian secret police. (King Michael had



Irene and Lili's train transport from Auschwitz II-Birkenau to Lorenz on September 12, 1944, Irene's 19th birthday

led the August 1944 coup that caused Romania to switch sides and join the Soviets against Germany and Hungary.) Part time Eugene co-owned a textile store in Satmar and made a fortune smuggling people and things. He quickly went from slavery, prison, and destitution to having a beautiful apartment, a car, and a Harley Davidson motorcycle. His best friend was Satu Mare County Siguranța Chief Lt.-Col. Ludovic Weiss, a survivor whose wife was murdered. After Romania's Soviet occupiers demanded that secret-police commanders have a college degree, Eugene forged for Weiss an entire academic record, including a doctorate-of laws diploma.

Eugene's return to Satmar was punctuated with the knowledge that most people he knew were now dead. Eugene's mother Toba, father Zoltan, and sister Katie were deported to Auschwitz in May 1944 and murdered. Eugene's brother, Carol, went to Melk, a Mauthausen Concentration Satellite camp, to dig tunnels in an extermination-through-work program. Carol complained about a kapo's cruelty to Jews. To avenge that slight, the kapo, a Jew from Satmar named Spitz, beat Carol to death in front of other inmates. A memorial with Carol's name on it is all that's left of him. Eugene was the only mem-

ber of his immediate family who survived the Nazis and their collaborators.

As badly as Eugene suffered, Irene suffered more.

In 1941, the Hungarian police arrested 20,000 Subcarpathian Jews — Irene and Eugene's neighbors — on the pretext that they were aliens. They were handed over to the Ukrainian Auxiliary Police and the Einsatzgruppen, the German mobile killing units, who shot them into pits in Kaminets-Podolsk over three August days. It was the Holocaust's first industrial-scale murder.

Irene attended a Ukrainian-Hungarian gymnazium, a high school that prepares students Gross Rosen and from there to other camps. Edfor university. She had to quit school at age 14. Hungarian law forbade Jews to attend school.

But things got worse. In April 1944, Irene and her family were arrested and herded into two of Subcarpathia's 17 Jewish ghettos. A month later, Irene and her entire immediate family, together with 90,000 other Jews, were deported to Auschwitz II-Birkenau from an obscenely teeming and filthy brick factory in Munkachevo that served as a ghetto. (Among those in that factory awaiting deportation was

Israeli actor Gal Godot's grandfather, Abraham Weiss, who survived Auschwitz.) Irene's sister Lili met a young dentist, Dr. Harry Katz, on the three-night train ride to Auschwitz. They fell in love in their cattle-car.

Gassed and cremated the day they arrived in Auschwitz were Irene's mother Rose: father Ludwig; and one-year-old Leah, Edmund and his wife Matilda's baby. (The Zyklon B (hydrogen cyanide) gas that killed them was made by the same company that made Bayer Children's Aspirin.) The story of Leah's murder is told in Matilda's sister Gaby Kramer's book, Andor Kept His Promise from the Grave (2006).

The SS transferred Edmund and Harry to mund escaped during a death march by rolling down a mountain and was liberated in April 1945 by American troops in Plauen, Germany.

Inside Auschwitz, Irene was marching one day with Lili and Elizabeth, her two sisters, when the SS told her to take a path away from her sisters. Dr. Joseph Mengele, the angel of death, stood guard at this selection. He beat with his riding crop anyone voicing discontent. But he granted Irene's plea to go with her sisters. Irene says it was because she was blond with



Irene's parents Rose and Ludwig's 1905 wedding photo



Irene and Eugene in the mid-1970s

blue eyes and thus to Mengele not a Jew. That's how the three sisters went to Birkenau, taking the path now traversed in the annual March of the Living at Auschwitz as Israeli fighter jets scream overhead.

In Birkenau the sisters lived outside, in the mud. After a month, Mengele selected Irene and Lili, because of their perfect eyesight and good hands, for slave labor at a German Sudetenland munitions factory in Ober-Hohenelbe at a Gross Rosen subcamp. The train to the factory arrived on September 12, 1944, Irene's 19th birthday. The factory, operated by a company called C. Lorenz AG and owned today by Nokia, built V-1 rockets that rained over London. Lorenz, which used 24,000 slaves during WWII, also invented and built the Lorenz Cipher, known as the Enigma Machine. The V-I rockets from Irene's factory were duds. Two German Jewish sisters, both



The Mermelsteins brothers and sisters: Alex, Lili, Irene, Elizabeth, and Edmund

kapos, sabotaged every rocket, with the help of Irene, Lili, and the other Jewish women inmates.

Irene and Lili weren't the only German captives in slave labor during WWII. Germany profited during the war from its 12 million slave laborers, including children. As to the Jews, the same companies that fired their paid Jewish employees because they were Jews later rehired



#### Irene on her 93rd birthday

them as slaves and then often worked them to death. More than 2000 German companies made fortunes exploiting the slaves assigned to them, including Krupp, IG Farben, Bosch, Henschel, Deutsche Bank, Siemens, Daimler-Benz, BMW, Ford, Opel, and Volkswagen. German pharmaceutical companies made double

profits: free slaves — and an unlimited number of non-consenting victims on whom they experimented with their drugs and vaccines and on whom they performed unsanitary, murderous surgery without anesthesia.

As the Soviets got closer to Lorenz, the Germans left. Irene and Lili went home. Their sister, Elizabeth, remained in Auschwitz almost until Soviet liberation. One time during a roll call Mengele kicked Elizabeth in her emaciated stomach with his jackboots while calling her "Jude!" (meaning Jew).

He then sent her to the gas chamber. But it was full, and she returned to her bunk.

Elizabeth's first husband, Dr. Eugene Klein, a lawyer, was deported to Auschwitz and never heard from again. In Satmar after the war she remarried blond and blue-eyed Joseph Zelig, whose first wife and two sons were murdered. Joe, hiding in Budapest during the war, lived in the Swiss embassy and worked with Swiss Vice -Counsel Carl Lutz, who saved 62,000 Jews.

Eugene courted Irene. On September 11, 1945, they married in Satmar. Irene would turn 20 the next day; Eugene had turned 24 five weeks earlier. They had a daughter, Agi, named after Irene's best friend, who never returned from the camps. Lili married Harry upon their liberation.

to go Mandate Palestine to break the British blockade, in place until Israel's independence in 1948. As a Siguranta agent and smuggler, Eugene was in charge of a few hundred displaced Jews who traveled from Hungary through Romania on their way to sail to Palestine as part of the Aliyah Bet movement.

He also saved the remnants of Irene's family, including Lili, Harry, Matilda, and Edmund, by leading an armed rescue mission across the Iron Curtain from Romania into Tisza -Újlak (Vylock) in Soviet Subcarpathia (now Zakarpattia, Ukraine) and back.

(After Irene's sister-in-law Matilda passed away at age 38 in Montreal, Edmund married Polly Baron from Radom, Masovian Voivodeship, Poland. Polly had witnessed the murder of her parents Israel and Blima Baran and brother Shaiyeh Yossle Baran, three among the 3.2 million Jewish Poles murdered in the Holocaust. Polly went to Auschwitz at age 13. She, brother Albert, and sisters Manya, Shayva Rosner, and Chava Ita survived the Holocaust.)

After paying a fortune in bribes and for his service to the Kingdom of Romania, Eugene in late 1947 secured valid passports and exit visas in Bucharest, Romania's capital, to escape from Communist Europe. (In August 1948, eight months after Irene and Eugene left Romania, the Siguranta became the Departamentul Securității Statului, the vicious and Soviet NKVD-controlled Securitate protecting Communist Party Secretary Nicolae Ceausescu with hundreds of thousands of informants.) From Romania, Irene and Eugene went to Belgium, where Eugene forged residence and work permits to be in Antwerp. Irene graduated from an ORT fashion school, summa cum laude. Canada accepted them in 1950 because of the WWII ser-during the West Point Club's 2018 Holocaust

vice to the British Crown of Irene's elder brother, Alex Mermelstein.

Alex had fought for the Free Czech forces, stationed in Warwickshire, England, where in 1940 he married his wife Sofie Barr, a Jewish orphan from Germany. In May 1942, a team of Alex's Czech co-soldiers from Warwickshire Many Jewish survivors after the war tried assassinated, in a Prague suburb, SS General Reinhard Heydrich, head of the German Security Service. Heydrich was the architect of the January 1942 Wannsee Conference plans for the final solution to the Jewish question — the extermination of Europe's nine million Jews. Adolf Eichmann, later hanged in Israel as a war criminal, prepared the Conference minutes. Among Heydrich's other jobs, he commanded the Einsatzgruppen, which, trailing the German armed forces, murdered 1.3 million Jews by mass shooting and gassing. The Heydrich assassination, documented in the movie thriller Anthropoid (2016), was the only time the Allies killed a top Nazi.

> From Canada, Irene and Eugene moved in 1979 to Hallandale Beach, Florida, where Irene lives happily and is planning no more great escapes. Of the seven Mermelstein siblings, only Irene, the youngest, still lives.

Most of Irene and Eugene's uncles, aunts, and cousins were murdered in the Holocaust. [Their lives and deaths will be told in the forthcoming book, *Holocaust Houdinis*.] But some survived. Here are a few of their stories:

Eugene's first cousin Naftali (Tuli) Deutsch, deported at 12½ years old, survived Auschwitz and four other camps. After the war he served in the Israel Defense Forces before moving to California. In 2008 he published A Holocaust Survivor in the Footsteps of His Past. His parents and two of his brothers were murdered. His four sisters and a brother survived.

One sister, Eugene's first cousin Irene Deutsch, endured Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. Married to the late Sam Kreitenberg, another Subcarpathian Holocaust survivor, she died in 2016 in Beverly Hills. In April 2018,

Days of Remembrance, 1st Lt. Zoe Kreitenberg, a 2016 West Point alumna and Irene and Sam's granddaughter, spoke with honor, love, and pride about her grandparents' Holocaust experiences. With her was Lt.-Gen. Robert L. Caslen, West Point's superintendent.

Tuli's surviving brother was Eugene's deaf-mute first cousin Harry Dunai. Harry had numerous near-death encounters in Budapest until the Soviets liberated him at age 11. With his daughter, he published, in 2002, *Surviving in Silence: A Deaf Boy in the Holocaust: The Harry I. Dunai Story*.

Isser Mermelstein, Eugene's first cousin, hid in the forests of Subcarpathia. Isser's brother was shot by Jew hunters who were tracking them down; three other brothers, one sister, and his parents were also murdered. But Isser and a sister survived. With Eugene and two other partners, Isser made a fortune after the war smuggling people and goods between Romania and Hungary.

Eugene's first-cousin-once-removed Jack Steinmetz was deported from Subcarpathia directly into Birkenau in May-June 1944. His parents (Eugene's first cousins) and siblings were murdered in the camps. Jack was 15. He was in a bunk for youths when, during a roll call, Dr. Mengele stuck out his riding crop. The boys' heads had to reach it while walking below it. Jack wasn't tall enough to reach the riding crop. So Mengele sent him to the gas chamber. He was in the chamber's ante-room, watching SS officers stuff Jews into the gas chamber, when a German officer saved him: The officer came into the ante-room and took Jack and 13 other Jewish boys away for work details, in a story told years later in the Canadian Jewish News. (Eugene saved Jack by smuggling him to and from Romania and Hungary after the war and paid for him to be smuggled into Germany.)

A cousin common to Irene and Eugene is Aranka (Meyer) Siegel, later married to Gilbert Siegal, a Harvard Law School graduate, New York City lawyer, and World War II United States Airforce officer. Aranka was deported at age 13 from Subcarpathia to Auschwitz, to Christianstadt and, following a five-week winter

death march, to Bergen-Belsen. All of Aranka's siblings but one were murdered at Auschwitz. Aranka wrote a children's book about Feige Rosner, her grandmother from Komyat: *Memories of Babi* (2008). She also wrote two other books about the Holocaust: *Upon the Head of the Goat: A Childhood in Hungary 1939-1944* (1981), and *Grace in the Wilderness: After the Liberation 1945-1948* (1985).

Despite the evil they witnessed, Irene and Eugene always looked for the good in people. They were defiant toward their German and Hungarian fascist tormentors. Otherwise, they were optimistic and resilient. In their hearts was love, never hate. They were filled with character and courage. And heroism. More than luck and smarts, that's how they survived the Holocaust and the years that followed.

Here to light a candle are Irene Lebovits; her son and daughter-in-law Justices Gerald Lebovits and Margaret Chan; and her grandchildren Natalie and Kenneth Lebovits and Or Zaidenberg.



Sabbath candlesticks owed by Eugene Lebovits's family, the family's only possession that survived the war

#### Keystone Presentation by Menachem Z. Rosensaft, Esq.

# On the 75th Anniversary of the Destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto, Remembering Those We've Lost

On a train from Berlin to Poland last week, I thought about my brother Benjamin, who was five-and-a-half when he was murdered by the Nazis. Today I honor his memory and the memory of all who perished in the Holocaust.

By Menachem Z. Rosensaft · April 26, 2018

Seventy-five years ago, on April 26, 1943, SS *Gruppenführer*—a rank equivalent to major-general—Jürgen Stroop reported to his superiors that his shock troops had that day combed through "the entire former living quarter" of the Warsaw Ghetto. "Practically without exception," Stroop wrote,

the shock troops reported resistance that was nonetheless completely broken through returning of fire or blowing up bunkers. It appears that the ranks are finding the Jews and bandits most tenacious and capable of resistance. Several bunkers were forcibly opened whose inhabitants had not come to the surface since the beginning of the Action. In a series of cases the inhabitants of the bunkers, after the bunkers had been successfully blown up, were scarcely able to crawl to the surface. According to statements of the captured Jews, a large number of inhabitants in the bunkers have become insane due to the heat, the thick smoke and the successful explosions.

This was the eighth day of the Warsaw



**Menachim Rosensaft** 

Ghetto Uprising, the first organized urban armed resistance against the Nazis in German-occupied Europe. Stroop wrote that the "result of today's undertaking" was as follows:

30 Jews displaced, 1,330 Jews pulled out of the bunkers and immediately destroyed, 362 Jews shot in battle. In total captured today: 1,722 Jews. Thereby the total number of captured Jews was raised to 29,186. Beyond that, it is likely that countless Jews died in the 13 blown-up bunkers and through fires.

Seventy-three years ago, on April 26, 1945, tens of thousands of erstwhile inmates of the Nazi concentration camp of Bergen-Belsen near the German city of Hanover were struggling to remain alive. When British troops had

entered the camps 11 days earlier, they encountered a devastation of humanity for which they were entirely unprepared. Most of the 58,000 inmates there, the overwhelming majority of them Jews, were too weak even to walk. In the main camp, more than 40,000 prisoners were crammed into barracks that should have held no more than 8,000; between 15,000 and 25,000 more who had arrived in early April from the Dora-Mittelbau concentration camp complex were in barracks of a nearby Wehrmacht army base. My mother, who had been at Bergen-Belsen since the previous November when she was sent there from Auschwitz-Birkenau, described the camp in the days prior to liberation as:

an indescribable hell. . . . The camp was overcrowded. Typhus, tuberculosis, and other epidemics raged. In the hospital and throughout the camp about a thousand people a day lay on the floor, starving and dying. . . . The small crematorium could not cope with all the corpses, even though it was kept burning day and night. The unburned corpses were strewn all over the camp. The SS, who felt that their own end was near, cut off the water and electricity. We were given one piece of bread per person only three times a week and one-half bowl of so-called soup daily. On top of this the Germans kept us in mortal fear by telling us that the camp was surrounded by mines and that we would be blown up if we tried to escape. Such was our situation on the eve of liberation. Disease, starvation, despair, fear, and not a single ray of hope.

In a lecture describing conditions at Bergen-Belsen when that camp was liberated, Lieutenant Colonel M.W. Gonin, the British officer

who commanded the 11th Light Field Ambulance during the camp's liberation, said that there were

"at least 20,000 sick suffering from the most virulent diseases known to man, all of whom required urgent hospital treatment and 30,000 men and women who might die if they were not treated, but who certainly would die if they were not fed and removed from the horror camp. What we had not got was nurses, doctors, beds, bedding, clothes, drugs, dressings, thermometers, bedpans or any of the essentials of medical treatment, and worst of all, no common language."

Within a few days following the liberation, Brigadier H. L. Glyn-Hughes, the Deputy Director of Medical Services of the British Army of the Rhine, appointed my mother, a not yet 33-year-old Jewish dentist from Sosnowiec, Poland, to organize and head a group of doctors and nurses among the survivors to help care for the camp's thousands of critically ill inmates.

For weeks on end following the liberation of Bergen-Belsen, my mother and her team of 28 doctors and 620 other female and male volunteers, only a few of whom were trained nurses, worked round the clock with the British military medical personnel to try to save as many of the survivors as possible. Despite their desperate efforts — it was not until May 11, 1945, that the daily death rate fell below 100 — the Holocaust claimed 13,944 additional victims at Bergen-Belsen during the two months after the liberation.

The end of the war found the survivors alone, mostly abandoned, just as the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto had been alone, mostly abandoned. "For the greater part of the liberated Jews of Bergen-Belsen," my mother recalled

many years later

"there was no ecstasy, no joy at our liberation. We had lost our families, our homes. We had no place to go, nobody to hug, nobody who was waiting for us, anywhere. We had been liberated from death and from the fear of death, but we were not free from the fear of life."

Last Friday, I returned to New York from Germany and Poland where I participated in commemorations for the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Both events were deeply moving, but they were also marked by an atmosphere of apprehension if not outright alarm regarding the future of Holocaust remembrance in both countries.

The right-extremist, anti-immigration Alternative for Germany-or AfD-party is now the largest opposition party in the German federal parliament. A number of its leaders have been accused of Holocaust denial.

Three months ago, Wolfgand Gedeon, an AfD lawmaker in the German state parliament of Baden-Württemberg, objected to the installation of plaques bearing the names of Jewish victims of National Socialism – so-called *Stolpersteine*, or stumbling stones – in the pavement outside their last residences before deportation. "With their actions, the stumbling stone initiators impose a culture of remembrance on their fellow human beings, dictating to them how they should remember who and when," Gedeon declared. "Who gives these obtrusive moralists the right to do so?"

The very idea that adherents of any present-day variation of the Hitlerite ideology might be able to influence how the Shoah is remembered in Germany is abhorrent on every possible level.

In Poland, meanwhile, the enactment of a new law that seeks to criminalize holding the

Polish nation responsible for the atrocities committed on Polish soil during World War II is widely seen as an attempt to whitewash those Poles who victimized Jews during the years of the Holocaust.

Two sentences of *Gruppenfüh*rer Stroop's report on the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto jump out in this connection: "In the event of the capture of a Jew in the Aryan part of the city of Warsaw," he wrote,

> "the Polish police was authorized to give to every Polish policeman onethird of the cash in the possession of the Jew in question. This measure has already produced results."

There is no question that there were Poles who helped and saved Jews at the risk of their own lives, and they fully deserved to be recognized and honored for their heroism. At the same time, there is also no question that there were Poles who betrayed Jews to the Germans during the Holocaust years, who raped Jewish women, and who murdered Jews.

We know full well that there were Germans who resisted the Nazis, but no one of any integrity would dare suggest that they were representative of the German people as a whole. Similarly, the Poles who rescued Jews were the exception, not the norm.

The Polish parliament recently established a national holiday honoring Poles who helped Jews during the Holocaust. The obvious concern is that such a holiday may enable Poles to disregard those of their compatriots who were not, in the words of the bill establishing it, "faithful to the highest ethical values."

Along the same lines, there are also other well-intentioned but misguided individuals who focus only on the Righteous, thereby creating a false, not to say distorted, version of history. They, too, must be called to task.

Today is not the time, this is not the place, to discuss at length the contemporary political challenges that confront us with respect to

cal, however, that we not allow Holocaust remembrance to become politicized. We must insist on absolute historical accuracy in the way pear. the event is chronicled. It is only by rejecting not just Holocaust denial but any type of historical revisionism that we will be able to counter resurgent anti-Semitism and the other forms of racism and bigotry that are now manifesting themselves in the very countries where the Sho- children about Benjamin. ah was perpetrated.

Let us also remind ourselves that one paramount reason why we are here today is that I wrote last week on a train from Berlin to we must not, we cannot allow our dead to fade from our consciousness.

On the night of August 3-4, 1943, a little boy named Benjamin arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau with his parents and grandparents. In her posthumously published memoirs, my mother recalled her final moments with her son, my brother:

> "We were guarded by SS men and women. One SS man was standing in front of the people and he started the selection. With a single movement of his finger, he was sending some people to the right and some to the left. . . . Men were separated from women. People with children were sent to one side, and young people were separated from older looking ones. No one was allowed to go from one group to the other. Our five-and-a-halfyear-old son went with his father. Something that will haunt me to the end of my days occurred during those first moments. As we were separated, our son turned to me and asked, 'Mommy, are we going to live or die?' I didn't answer this question."

Benjamin is one of between 1,000,000 and 1,500,000 Jewish children who were murdered in the Shoah. Since my mother's death in 1997, he has existed inside of me. I see his face

the future of Holocaust remembrance. It is criti- in my mind, try to imagine his voice, his fear as the gas chamber doors slammed shut, his final tears. If I were to forget him, he would disap-

> But it is not enough for me to remember my brother. I must transmit his memory, his image, into the future, so that one day my grandchildren will tell their children and grand-

With this thought in mind, allow me to conclude my remarks today with these words Warsaw:

> he drifts aimlessly through the snow above the snow the ghost child does not know who he is who he was if he was he does not speak cannot speak and because he no longer knows how to speak refuses to speak cannot understand cannot recognize cannot hear words laughter screams certainly not prayers he will not sanctify glorify forgive Curse

he does not know how many

minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years

he has drifted aimlessly

through the snow

above the snow

drenched by rain

scorched under an august sun

over grass

flowers

like the last flowers

he saw before

but always between

decaying

wooden walls

he

no longer remembers

a smile

a hug

a kiss

only faint echoes

of a lullaby

another ghost child walks

toward him

beside him

they

do not see each other

do not touch

no matter

they know they once

heard the same lullaby

became

the same ashes

dissipated into

the same grayness

two ghost children

drift aimlessly

through the snow

above the snow

Menachem Z. Rosensaft is General Counsel of the World Jewish Congress, and teaches about the law of genocide at the law schools of Columbia and Cornell Universities. He is the editor of the recently published The World Jewish Congress, 1936-2016.



Menachem Rosensaft in the Bergen-Belsen DP camp hospital with his parents right after he was born

#### **Editor's Note**

Each year an exhibit of historic images and artifacts displayed during the week of the Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony in the rotunda of 60 Centre Street lends visual reality to the narratives read by the Administrative Judge. Small and carefully focused, exhibits illuminate some essential but almost unfathomable aspect of the Holocaust—the persistence of religious faith, the deeds of the righteous, the bureaucratic objects and photographs they assembled.

machinery of state-sponsored genocide.

Jewish Rescue Activism in Switzerland— **Recha and Vitzchok Sternbuch** is the fourth of consecutive exhibits brought to the court by the Amud Aish Memorial Museum, whose mission is to emphasize the experience of observant Jewish communities during the Holocaust. In their own words, museum curators describe the rare

#### Jewish Rescue Activism in Switzerland—Recha and Vitzchok Sternbuch Amud Aish Memorial Museum

The special exhibit on rescue activism during and immediately after the Holocaust presents three intersecting narratives.

There is a visual dialogue between the efforts of Swiss Jewish rescue activist Recha Sternbuch and Captain Paul Gruninger of the Swiss Border Police. Both worked seamlessly together to help Jewish German and Austrian refugees enter Switzerland in 1938. As Paul Gruninger falsified entry registrations at the border, Recha Sternbuch waited on the Swiss side, offering succor,

hope and accommodations to the forlorn refugees, often in her own home.

The exhibit is the first in the United States to document the efforts of Captain Gruninger. The Captain used his own monies to purchase winter coats for the refugees as they waited for days and weeks for their entry papers into Switzerland. For these humane efforts, he was decommissioned by the Swiss authorities and lost his pension. The exhibit contains original artifacts documenting Paul Gruninger's life, such as his Righteous Amongst the Nations Medallion



Captain Paul Gruninger



Recha Sternbuch in forefront with Rabbi Eliezer Silver, 1946 Schenkolewski Collection, AAMM

- awarded under Yad Vashem Law and his authentic Border Police saber.
- Aside from their important rescue work in Switzerland with Captain Gruninger, Recha and Yitzchok Sternbuch were involved in multiple rescue activities, internationally, ranging from support for Jewish refugees in Japanese Occupied Shanghai, to negotiations with SS Commandeer Heinrich Himmler - mediated through Jean-Marie Musy, a former President of the Federal Council of Switzerland - which resulted in the release of 1,200 prisoner from Theresienstadt. The Sternbuchs were the first to give notice to Jewish leaders in September of 1942 of the mass deportations from the Warsaw Ghetto. In 1946, Recha Sternbuch

joined the Chief Rabbi of Mandate Palestine, Yitzhak Herzog, on Transport 750, taking Jewish orphans out of Poland to safety. Other unique documents on display were the Hotel Polski lists, compiled by Recha and Yitzchok Sternbuch, listing the holders of foreign visas, who were deported from the infamous hotel in Warsaw to the Bergen -Belsen Concentration camp. One of the names on yet another displayed list is that of the German Jew, Max Hirschmann. Remarkably, in the midst of the horrors of Bergen-Belsen, he had in his possession a shofar, used by the most famous passenger on the Kasztner Train, the Satmar Rebbe, in Bergen-Belsen on Rosh Hashonah in 1944. The exhibit prominently displayed this precious artifact.









October is a very significant Month
It is both Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer Awareness Month
We are Bridging Awareness

Theme: "Soar Survivors: Women Who Win"

**Date:** Friday October 19, 2018 **Time:** 1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. **Place:** 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

#### -Coordinator-

Cecily Hernandez, Court Officer

You must R.S.V.P., no later than October 12, 2018 to cahernan@nycourts.gov

(A light lunch will be served)

#### -Co-sponsor-

The Gender Fairness Committee, Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch

#### -Committee Chairpersons-

Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Administrative Judge Gregory F. Testa, Esq.

This event is free and open to the public. However, space is limited. Please R.S.V.P. timely to ensure entry. Gender Fairness Committee, New York County, Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Hon. Erika Edwards and Lisa White-Tingling, Chairs

#### Gender Fairness Committee of New York County Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Chairs: Hon. Erika Edwards JSC and Lisa White-Tingling, Court Clerk Specialist

Members: Hon. Ellen Biben, Christopher DiSanto, Carissa Zucco, Rachel Bigio, Julia Valette, Peter Kiefer, Michael Stein, Nicole Leary, Michele Hendricks, Nicole Beckford, Thelma Greenidge, Alana Gardner, Dia Rogers, Dean Hutchins

Counties served: New York

#### 2018 Meetings

Meeting Dates: 5/23/18; 5/31/18; interim emails

Average Attendance: 8

Do you use Videoconferencing? No

#### 2018 Special Events

Special Events or Activities

The Committee hosted a two-part informational presentation (June 14 and Nov. 1, 2018) on the CCA Work/Life Assistance Program, Family Medical Leave Act and Family Sick Leave and the new Dependent Care Advantage Act.

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email, Flyer, and Word of Mouth

Who and how many attended?

June 14th -- 74 total (employees from various courts -- judges, attorneys, clerks, officers, other clerical; few from external legal community). Nov 1st -- 32 court employees Was there any press before or after? No

#### **Future Plans**

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2019: 2/5/2019; 2/27/2019. Other dates TBD

Special Events & Educational Programs

Women's History Month and others to be determined including a Lunchtime movie series; Stress relieving through lunchtime yoga or meditation; Women's History Month daily email about a prominent woman or women's movement in history; CLE courses on Certificate of Relief and Implicit Bias; Email blasts in June for Men's Health Awareness Month

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019?

Addressing the needs of the transgender communityAddressing the needs of the transgender community

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Child Care Centers and Breastfeeding Space. There is no space for female court users (non-employees) to express breast milk.

Do you see unmet training needs? Yes, Gender identity education

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse?

Active Shooter Education for non-uniform personnel

#### Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects? Corporate Counseling Associates, Inc.



Did you know that the Work/Life Assistance Program can help you with these and so many other issues?

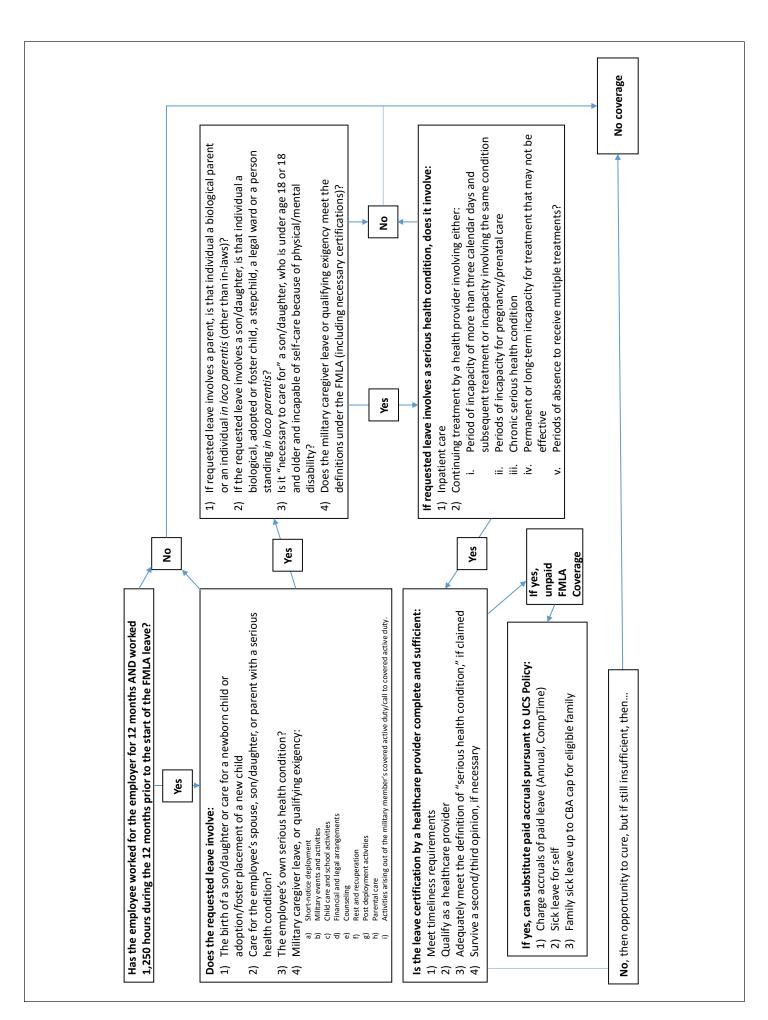
> Join the Gender Fairness Committee of NY County Supreme Court, Criminal Term as we discuss and provide information on:

- Overview of Work/Life Assistance Program
- Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and Family Sick Leave (FSL)
- The new Dependent Care Advantage Act with employer contributions

Thursday, June 14th, 2018, 1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

100 Centre Street 15th Floor - Room 1530

**Light Lunch Served** 





Did you know that the Work/Life Assistance Program can help you with these and so many other issues?

- Overview of Work/Life Assistance Program
- Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and Family Sick Leave (FSL)
- The new Dependent Care Advantage Act with employer contributions

Thursday, November 1, 2018, 1 to 2:15 p.m.

100 Centre Street 15th Floor—Room 1530

Snacks provided

## Who is CCA?



- CCA is a provider of EAP & Work/Life Assistance Programs
- We have over 30 years experience in the industry
- We are based in NYC, and serve organizations nationwide & globally



3

# Areas of assistance for UCS employees & family members



Emotional Well-Being	Child Care	Adult & Elder Care	Daily Living	Legal/Financial Consultation
Stress, Anxiety, Depression Life Transitions	Locating Childcare	Aging Housing Options	Home Improvement Pet Care	Identity Theft Wills & Estate
Relationship & Family	Parenting/Child Development Pre/post-Natal	Caregiver Support	Health/Fitness	Planning Divorce & Custody Law
Concerns  Grief & Trauma	Health  Adoption	Medicare and Medicaid	Moving and Relocation	Bankruptcy
Addiction & Recovery	Education	Community Resources	Event Planning Travel/Leisure	Budgeting & Debt/Credit Management
Workplace Issues	Work/Family Balance	Adults with Disabilities	Disaster Recovery	Saving for the Future

### Childcare



- Adoption
- Childcare options, including day care, summer camp and afterschool programs
- Communication and parenting
- Developmental stages
- Education preschool to grad school
- Pre/post-natal health
- Safety
- Special needs





## Adult and eldercare



- Keeping your older relative safe
- Understanding and locating types of care, including assisted living, nursing homes, in-home care, etc.
- Handling legal and financial issues
- Navigating Medicare/Medicaid
- Locating community resources



8

### Pet care



- Veterinarians
- Pet sitters and dog walkers
- Trainers
- Day care and extended stay
- Encouraging good behavior
- Traveling with pets
- Pet safety
- Adoption
- Pet insurance



9

#### Things to remember



#### The Work/Life Assistance Program is:

- Holistic
- Confidential
- Free
- Accessible 24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year
- Available to you and your family members



16

We are here to help you! cca 1.800.833.8707 www.myccaonline.com Company Code: UCS 17

#### New York County Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Heidi C. Cesare and Gloria Keum, Esq., Chairs

#### **New York County Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee**

Chairs: Hon. Heidi C. Cesare, Judge of the Criminal Court, and Gloria Keum, Esq.

Members:

Counties served: New York

#### 2018 Meetings

Meeting Dates: March 28, 2018, June 6, 2018, September 13, 2018, December 4, 2018

Average Attendance: 15

Do you use Videoconferencing? No

#### 2018 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month

Our committee co-sponsored the Civil Supreme Gender Fairness Committee's "2018 Women's History Month Celebration," held on April 19, 2018, at 1:00-2:00 pm, at 60 Centre Street, Room 300.

#### Other Special Events or Activities

We held a number of interesting and relevant and well attended events in 2018: 1.On April 18, 2018, our Gender Fairness Committee (GFC) presented a lunchtime diversity-CLE program, "Sexual Harassment and Discrimination in the Workplace." Our presenters were Sherrill Spatz, Esq., Inspector General for the Unified Court System and Kay-Ann Porter Campbell, Esq., Managing Inspector General for Bias Matters for the Unified Court System.

- 2. On June 6, 2018, we invited NYC Criminal Court Borough Chief Clerk Arlethia (Lisa) Howard to be our special guest at our committee meeting. Chief Howard kindly joined us to tell us about herself and share her unique perspective on the rewards and challenges of a career in the NYC Courts.
- 3. On September 13, 2018, we invited Mr. Angel Rodriguez, Executive Director of the Avenues for Justice Program (formerly the Andrew Glover Youth Program) to be our guest speaker. Mr. Rodriguez, one of our city's leading advocates for youth, kindly joined us to tell us about the Avenues for Justice Program and its many, wonderful success stories.
- 4. On October 25, 2018, our GFC presented a lunchtime diversity-CLE program, "Cyber Harassment is Sexual Discrimination: New NYC Legislation." Our presenters were: Sadie Diaz, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney at Sanctuary for Families; Andrew Sta. Ana, Esq., Director of Legal Services for Day One; Tracey Downing, Esq., Director of Training and Initiatives at the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence.

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email, Flyer, and the New York Women's Bar Association Newsletter

Who and how many attended?

At our two CLE events we had approximately 60-80 attendees. At our committee meetings we had approximately 15 people at each meeting. Was there any press before or after? No

#### **Future Plans**

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2019:

- 1. On February 28, 2019, at our committee meeting, we will have guest speakers from UPNEXT program. UPNEXT is a workforce development and fatherhood engagement initiative of the Midtown Community Court.
- 2. On March 28, 2019, our GFC will co-sponsor the following CLE program and panel discussion: "Under the Microscope: DNA and Criminal Trials"

featuring: Hon. Mark Dwyer, Court of Claims and Acting Supreme Court Justice; Mark Desire, Criminalist, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; Allison Lewis, Staff Attorney, DNA Unit, Legal Aid Society; Ray Valerio, Chief of Forensics, Bronx County District Attorney's Office; Moderated by Terri Rosenblatt, Staff Attorney, DNA Unit, Legal Aid Society

Special Events & Educational Programs
To be determined

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019? Sexual harassment law, policy and procedures.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Child Care Centers and Breastfeeding Space; We are not aware of any child care centers or breastfeeding space in our courthouse.

Do you see unmet training needs? No

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 - 2:00 in the courthouse?

#metoo trends, cyber harassment issues, sexual harassment issues, rape kit backlog/testing

Areas of success during 2018 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts:

Our committee continues to be warmly received by the courthouse community. Our diversity-CLE programs have enjoyed robust attendance.

#### Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects? Bar Associations

# The Appellate Division, First Department The Assigned Counsel Plan for the First Department and

## New York Women's Bar Association Criminal Law Committee together with

The New York Criminal Bar Association and The NYC Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee

Present a CLE Program and Panel Discussion

#### "Under the Microscope: DNA and Criminal Trials"

#### featuring

Hon. Mark Dwyer, Court of Claims and Acting Supreme Court Justice

Mark Desire, Criminalist, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Allison Lewis, Staff Attorney, DNA Unit, Legal Aid Society

Ray Valerio, Chief of Forensics, Bronx County District Attorney's Office

Moderated by Terri Rosenblatt, Staff Attorney, DNA Unit, Legal Aid Society

Date:

Thursday, March 28, 2019

Time:

6:00 -8:00 PM

Location:

111 Centre Street, Room 107

CLE:

1½ Practice and ½ Ethics Credits\*

Cost:

Free

**RSVP**:

aostrau@nycourts.gov

For additional information about this program, contact crimlawchairs@nywba.org

<sup>\*</sup> CLE credit provided by the Appellate Division, First Department with credit designation to be confirmed

# Appellate Division, First Department, Assigned Counsel Plan for the First Department, and the NYC Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee in conjunction with the NYWBA Criminal Law Committee present a

#### Lunchtime CLE

# Sexual Harassment and Discrimination in the Workplace

Date: Wednesday, April 18

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Place: 100 Centre Street, Room 535 (Jury 2)

Speakers: Sherrill Spatz, Esq.

Inspector General for the Unified Court System

Kay-Ann Porter Campbell, Esq.

Managing Inspector General for Bias Matters for the

Unified Court System

CLE: one (1) diversity credit

Pre-registration is not required.



### The 2018 Women's History Month Celebration

April 19, 2018 Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Term, Room 300 1:00-2:00 P.M.

featuring a special presentation by Keynote Speaker and Honoree
Susan Herman
Deputy Commissioner, Collaborative Policing, NYPD

and presentations of

The Women's History Month Distinguished Jurist Award to Hon. Eileen Bransten

The Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award to Valerie Qualls

The Office of Collaborative Policing concentrates on developing more non-enforcement options for police officers, designing creative and focused enforcement strategies, and improving access to police services. A member of the NYPD from 1985 to 1990, DC Herman served as the Special Counsel to the Police Commissioner to three consecutive Police Commissioners. DC Herman was an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Pace University, served as the Executive Director of the National Center for Victims of Crime, Director of Community Services at The Enterprise Foundation, Director of the Domestic Violence Division at Victim Services (now Safe Horizon), Director of Mediation Services at the Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution, and an instructor at NYU School of Law and NYU's Wagner School of Public Service. A recipient of the United States Attorney General's National Crime Victim Service Award, DC Herman is known for her new vision of justice set forth in her book *Parallel Justice for Victims of Crime*. DC Herman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Bryn Mawr College and a Juris Doctorate from the Antioch School of Law.

The Gender Fairness Committee will be presenting its annual Women's History Month Service Awards. The Women's History Month Distinguished Jurist Award will be presented to the **Hon. Eileen Bransten**, who presides in the Supreme Court, Commercial Division, New York County, for her dedicated service to the bench and bar. The Women's History Month Distinguished Service Award recipient will be **Valerie Qualls**, Administrative Assistant to Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler, who will be recognized for her 24 years of service to the court system.

THIS EVENT IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE, NEW YORK COUNTY, CRIMINAL BRANCH

# The NYC Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee, Appellate Division, First Department, and Assigned Counsel Plan for the First Department and co-sponsors The NYWBA Criminal Law Committee and NYC Civil Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee

present a Lunchtime CLE program

#### "Cyber Harassment is Sexual Discrimination: New NYC Legislation"

Featuring

Sadie Diaz, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney at Sanctuary for Families

Andrew Sta. Ana, Esq., Director of Legal Services for Day One

Tracey Downing, Esq., Director of Training and Initiatives at the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

**Date:** Thursday, October 25, 2018

**Time:** 1:00 -2:00 PM

**Location:** 100 Centre Street, Room 400 (Part B)

**CLE:** 1 Diversity Credit\*

Cost: Free

**RSVP:** Please arrive by 12:45 pm to register for CLE. (No pre registration).

For more information, contact Amy Ostrau at aostrau@nycourts.gov or

212-340-0558 for more information.

\*CLE: Provided by Appellate Division, First Department, an accredited CLE provider.

Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee Hon. Robin Sheares and Hon. Theresa Cicotto, Chairs

#### Kings County Civil Court Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: Hon. Robin K. Sheares, Acting Justice of the Supreme Court and Hon. Theresa Cicotto, Acting Justice of the Supreme Court

Members: Judges: Hon. Robin K. Sheares, Hon. Theresa Ciccotto, Hon. Gary Marton, Hon. Richard Montelione; Court Attorneys: Elaine Schack-Rodriguez, Yvonne Pritchett; Court Clerks: Laurana Springer, Nicole Jones, Tanya Faye; Court Officer; Sidney Moses

Counties served: Kings

#### 2018 Meetings

Meeting Dates: February 13, March 8

Average Attendance: 9

Do you use Videoconferencing? No

#### 2018 Special Events

Activities for Women's History Awareness Month Honored Helene Blank, Esq. and Justice Reginald Boddie based on the theme, "Nevertheless She Persisted: Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women." Justice Boddie's mother was the plaintiff in a famous United States Supreme Court case.

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email, Flyer, and Word of Mouth

Who and how many attended? Judicial and nonjudicial employees, honorees and their guest and members of the Bar. Was there any press before or after? Yes

#### **Future Plans**

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2019: February 21, others TBD

Special Events & Educational Programs

Women's History Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and a Family Health Forum in June

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019? Sexual Harassment in the Workplace (Judge Cheryl Gonzales) and Implicit Bias

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? None

Do you see unmet training needs? Yes, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 – 2:00
in the courthouse?
Sexual Harassment in the Workplace and Estate Planning
Collaboration
Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects? Yes,
Bar Associations

#### Kings County Civil Court's Gender Fairness Committee

in conjunction with

#### The Brooklyn Women's Bar Association

invite you to attend their

#### 2018 Women's History Month Celebration

"NEVERTHELESS SHE PERSISTED":

Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women



Wednesday, March 28, 2018 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

141 Livingston Street, Room 306, 3rd Floor

LIGHT refreshments will be served

#### Kings County Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee

Hon. Abena Darkeh, Chair

#### **Kings County Criminal Court Gender Fairness Committee**

Chairs: Hon. Abena Darkeh

Members: In development

Counties served: Kings

2018 Meetings

Meeting Dates: None

**Future Plans** 

To be determined

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019? Sexual harassment law, policy and procedures.

#### Concerns

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Child Care Centers

Do you see unmet training needs? No

QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, CIVIL AND CRIMINAL TERMS, GENDER FAIRNESS COMMITTEE

Hon. Marguerite A. Grays and Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch, Chairs

#### Queens County Supreme Court Civil and Criminal Terms Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: Hon. Marguerite A. Grays, Deputy Administrative Judge Civil Matters, 11th Judicial District; Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch, Judge of the Court of Claims/Acting Supreme Court Justice,

Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Members: Please see attached list.

Counties served: Queens

#### 2018 Meetings

Meeting Dates: June 27, 2018, September 18, 2018, October 16, 2018

Average Attendance: 35

Do you use Videoconferencing? No

#### 2018 Special Events

Special Events or Activities

June 27, 2018 - General Membership Meeting to discuss concerns, new ideas and proposals for future programs.

Sept. 20, 2018 - "Trauma in the Courts-A Presentation on Vicarious Trauma, Burnout & Workplace Stress, and How to Manage Them." Oct. 16, 2018 - "The Basics of Breast Cancer" - co-sponsored with JALBCA and Queens County Women's Bar Association.

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email and Flyer

Who and how many attended? Judges, court attorneys, ADA's, secretaries, clerks, court officers and interpreters attended each program. There were approximately 25-40 attendees for each program.

Was there any press before or after? No

#### **Future Plans**

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2019: March, May/June, October

Special Events & Educational Programs

Women's History Month and a Ruth Bader Ginsburg film; also Women to the Bench, Moving up in the Ranks. Other planned events: LGBTQ resources and/or the Latest Developments in Employment Discrimination. Implications of the New Tax Law & Financial Seminar. Women and Minorities - Career Opportunities in the Office of Court Administration.

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019?

Work Accommodation for Single Moms, including hours and time off. Female Court Officers are concerned with Sick Bank issues, their Maternity Leave benefits in relation to other law enforcement organizations, and a Weapons Issue -Women are more likely to ask for help with mental health issues and least likely to rely on their weapon alone, yet if weapons are taken away, men get their weapons returned before women.

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Child Care Centers and Breastfeeding Space

Do you see unmet training needs? No

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00 - 2:00 in the courthouse?

Me, Too Movement and its Implications for Court Personnel.

#### Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects? Co-sponsorships have been helpful in presenting meaningful and informative programs to the court personnel.

#### MEMBERS

Rosemary Serno Secretary to Judge, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Frank Consigli, Esq.
Prn. Court Attorney, Queens
Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Diana Megias, Esq.
Assistant District Attorney,
Queens County
District Attorney

Delores Haynes Secretary to Judge, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Hon. Marguerite A. Grays Deputy Administrative Judge Civil Matters, 11th Judicial District

Hon. Marcia Hirsch Judge, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

JoAnn Lopresto Secretary to Judge, Queens County Supreme Court, Civil Term

Maritza Karagiorgos Senior Court Analyst, Queens Treatment Court

Peter Manzo Resource Coordinator, Queens Mental Health Court

Patrick Clayton
Case Manager, Queens
Treatment Courts

Nicole McGregor Mundy Prn. Court Attorney, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Iris Guzman
Principal Court Analyst
Queens Criminal Court

Hon. Joseph A. Zayas Administrative Judge, Criminal Term, Queens Supreme Court

Hon. Charles Lopresto Judge, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Hon. Bernice Siegal Judge, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Hon. Morgan Lancman Judge, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Hon. Darrell L. Gavrin Judge, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Carol Gardner, Esq. Prin. Court Attorney, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Rosemary Chao, Esq. Prin. Court Attorney, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Susan Beberfall, Esq. Prin. Court Attorney, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Samantha McDawal Associate Court Clerk, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term Maureen D'Aquila Chief Clerk, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term

Tiffany Malcolm, Esq.
Law Clerk, Queens Supreme
Court Civil Term

Quynda Henry Santacroce, Esq., Prin. Court Attorney, Queens Supreme Court Criminal Term

Cassandra Johnson Court Clerk, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Annette Bevans, Esq. Associate Law Clerk, Queens Supreme Court, Civil Term

Hon. Gia Morris Judge, Queens Supreme Court Criminal Term

Hon. Lenora Gerald Judge, Queens Supreme Court Criminal Term

Noliesa Davoli, Esq. Prin. Court Attorney, Queens Supreme Court, Criminal Term Gender Fairness Committee for the Civil and Criminal terms and Queens County Women's Bar Association

Invite you to

General Membership Meeting to discuss upcoming programs and events for the 2018/2019 year

Please come with your best ideas, proposals & comments

Wednesday June 27, 2018 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Queens Criminal Courthouse 125-01 Queens Boulevard Kew Gardens, New York courtroom E-324 in the Annex

All Are Welcome!

RSVP to the Hon. Marguerite A. Grays at (718) 298-1212 or via e-mail at jloprest@courts.state.ny.us

Light Refreshments will be Served



FOR THE CIVIL AND CRIMINAL TERMS OF THE SUPREME COURT,
THE CIVIL COURT, AND CRIMINAL COURT, QUEENS COUNTY
AND

THE QUEENS WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

#### "TRAUMA IN THE COURTS"

A PRESENTATION ON VICARIOUS TRAUMA, BURNOUT, ANXIETY, DEPRESSION AND WORKPLACE STRESS AND HOW TO MANAGE THFM.

PRESENTERS: NICOLE CHARDER, MD AND DANIELLE KUSHNER, MD PSYCHIATRISTS

#### SEPTEMBER 20<sup>™</sup>, 2018 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

CEREMONIAL COURTROOM, ROOM 190
QUEENS CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE
125-01 QUEENS BLVD, KEW GARDENS, NY 11415
RSVP TO RSERNO@NYCOURTS.GOV OR JLOPREST@NYCOURTS.GOV
ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

#### JALBCA LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM



#### UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS OF BREAST CANCER

#### Welcome & Introduction

Hon. Marguerite Grays, NYS Supreme Court,
Deputy Administrative Judge, Civil Term Eleventh Judicial District
Member, JALBCA Board of Directors

#### Presenter

Fran Visco, President, National Breast Cancer Coalition

#### **October 16, 2018**

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Queens County Supreme Court 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435

#### Co-Sponsors

Queens County Supreme Court, Civil and Criminal Term
Queens Civil Court
Gender Fairness Committee
and
Queens County Women's Bar Association

A light lunch will be served.

Open to the public without charge but space is limited and registration is required.

To reserve a space, please register at <a href="https://bit.ly/2wn9RWR">https://bit.ly/2wn9RWR</a> or at www.jalbca.org.

For more information, contact JALBCA's Executive Director, Claire P. Gutekunst, at cgutekunst@jalbca.org.



Hon. Barbara Irolla Panepinto and Hon. Karen B. Wolff, Chairs

#### Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee

Chairs: Hon. Barbara Irolla Panepinto and Hon. Karen B. Wolff

Members: Claire Cody Miller, Esq., Karen Soren, Esq., Rian Silverman, Esq. (Court

Attorney to Hon. Karen B. Wolff), Hon. Alison Hamanjian, Manju Sunny, Esq.

Counties served: Richmond

#### 2018 Meetings

Meeting Dates: 5/10/18, 10/16/18, 1/30/19

Average attendance: 5

Do you use Videoconferencing? No

#### 2018 Special Events

Activities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Teen Dating Violence & Healthy Relationships Workshop with NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence with students from Curtis H.S. The event, including a tour, was held at the Staten Island Family Justice Center.

Other Special Events or Activities

Co-Sponsored Breast Cancer Awareness Month program at the Richmond County Supreme Courthouse. The speaker was Dr. Daniel Messina, PhD, President & CEO of Richmond University Medical Center and Dr. Tihesha Wilson, M.D., Chief of Breast Surgery.

How were your special events advertised or marketed? Email, Mail, Flyer, High School program was advertised by faculty of Law Program.

Who and how many attended?

Approximately 30 teens attended the high school program & approximately 75 attorneys and court staff attended the Breast Cancer Awareness program.

Was there any press before or after? No

#### **Future Plans**

Meetings dates planned or projected for 2019:

Next meeting April 15, 2019

Special Events & Educational Programs

Women's History Month. On 4/15/19, Thomas Estler, cartoonist and Saving Jane will be doing a presentation, at Curtis High School, Staten Island, to educate students about human trafficking using Mr. Estler's comic book series: Abolitionista!

What issues regarding women and gender in the courts do you think are important in 2019? Assigned counsel in matrimonial matters

Do you see operational issues in your court or judicial district that adversely affect women or a subgroup of women? Child Care Centers and Supervised Visitation

Do you see unmet training needs? No

What topics would you like to see developed for Lunch & Learn Sessions from 1:00-2:00 in the courthouse? Stress management, health and wellness, career opportunities for women in the law

Areas of success during 2018 for your committee and/or in general regarding gender bias and gender fairness in the courts:

As stated, we have formed a strong partnership with the students at Curtis High School and provided for them an interactive program which engaged them and had them talking and thinking about healthy relationships, domestic violence and resources available to them, their friends and family. In October, Dr. Wilson's slide show presentation about breast cancer, current screening and treatment modalities, and the new breast cancer center on Staten Island was enthusiastically received by attendees who filled a courtroom.

#### Collaboration

Have you joined with groups outside the courts for programs or projects?

Bar Associations, Domestic Violence Organizations, SIWBA, Curtis H. S. Law Program, NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, and Richmond University Medical Center

NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy presents:

## TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WORKSHOP

Thursday, May 10, 2018 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

NYC Family Justice Center, Staten Island

126 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island NY

# I in 10 NYC teens report that their partner has hit, slapped, or physically hurt them in the past year¹ How do I help a friend in an abusive relationship? Why does teen dating violence happen?



Staten Island Gender Fairness
Committee & Staten Island Women's



#### JUDGES & LAWYERS BREAST CANCER ALERT

And The



#### And The

NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

And The Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee

cordially invite you to their

# ANNUAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH BREAKFAST

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

9:15 A.M.
Supreme Court House
18 Richmond Terrace

#### SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

Daniel J. Messina, Ph.D. President & Chief Executive Officer, Richmond University Medical Center

Tihesha Wilson, M.D. Chief of Breast Surgery

Come Join Us and Show Your Support!!!

Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee, The Staten Island Women's Bar Association &:

#### **SAVING JANE**

present:

#### Thomas Estler, Author

Featuring work from his comic book series: "Abolitionista!"

Monday April 15, 2019, 5PM - 7:30 PM
Curtis High School
105 Hamilton Avenue, Staten Island NY 10301

#### ABOLITIONISTA!

A COMIC BOOK SERIES THAT EDUCATES KIDS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Sponsored by: Staten Island Gender Fairness Committee & Staten Island Women's Bar Association